Resusable rockets:
China demonstrates two orbital-booster return methods

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AUG 19 2026

ZHUQUE-3 Y2

Commercial
(LandSpace)
Propulsive recovery

CONTROLLED TOUCHDOWN ON LEGS
BOOSTER LATER TOPPLED

JUL 10 2026

LONG MARCH 10B

State-owned
CASC / SAST

NET CAPTURE ON OFFSHORE PLATFORM

DEC 2025

LONG MARCH 12A

State-owned
CASC / SAST
Propulsive recovery attempt

UNSUCCESSFUL

DEC 2025

ZHUQUE-3 Y1

Commercial
(LandSpace)
Propulsive recovery attempt

UNSUCCESSFUL

INDICATIVE OPERATING SCALE, 2025

SpaceX Falcon 9 versus China's entire launch ecosystem

Sources: Xinhua, Ars Technica, SpaceNews

Weekly
Facts &
Figures.

- **China:** CASC and LandSpace achieved two different orbital-booster recovery milestones in 2026.

- **Reuse gap:** Neither recovery has yet led to a confirmed reflight or demonstrated repeatable reuse.

- **U.S. lead:** SpaceX flew 165 Falcon 9 missions in 2025, compared with 92 orbital launch attempts across China's entire launch sector.

What
This
Means.

"For European companies, the signal is that China is building technical options to support a more scalable domestic launch ecosystem and large satellite-constellation deployment."

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Start the conversation.

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