

China's solar-powered aircraft carrier



Overview

As reported by Rupprecht Deino on February 13, 2025, China is likely progressing with the development of its first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the Type 004, as multiple reports and satellite imagery suggest early-stage construction activity at the Dalian shipyard. At the Dalian Shipyard in northern China, construction is underway on China's fourth aircraft carrier. Speculation about the vessel, known as the Type 004, is widespread, but many details pertaining to its size, propulsion, and capabilities remain unclear. This page leverages commercial satellite. The Type 004 aircraft carrier is an upcoming class of supercarriers for the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy. The yet-unnamed lead ship of the class is currently in construction at the Dalian Shipyard since 2024, and is the fourth aircraft carrier of the Chinese aircraft carrier programme. As of 2026, the People's Republic of China has three active aircraft carriers in the Surface Force of the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN), namely the Liaoning, Shandong and Fujian. The Liaoning, Shandong, and EMALS-equipped Fujian together underscore Beijing's intent to operate far from its shores, blending audacious innovation with disciplined, experience-driven learning. Get unlimited access to ad-free.



Article Content

Satellite images show China working on nuclear

China has a fleet of three aircraft carriers, all conventionally powered, but a nuclear-powered carrier, according to experts, will place China in the exclusive ranks of

Does China Have Nuclear-Powered Aircraft Carriers?

China wants to project naval power farther from Asia and closer to North America than ever before. A nuclear-powered aircraft carrier could make

Analysis | Could China's future Type 004 replace the

As reported by Rupprecht Deino on February 13, 2025, China is likely progressing with the development of its first nuclear-powered aircraft

China is working on an enormous aircraft carrier that

It already has the world's largest navy, but new satellite imagery shows that China is developing a huge nuclear-powered aircraft carrier that

Tracking China's Fourth Aircraft Carrier

China's fourth aircraft carrier is rapidly taking shape at Dalian Shipyard. Satellite imagery reveals a vessel likely to be larger and more advanced than its predecessors, with evidence

Have China's plans for a nuclear-powered aircraft

Reports that China has built a prototype nuclear reactor for its next aircraft carrier have prompted renewed focus on its supposed long-term ambition

Chinese aircraft carrier programme

In mid-2007, Chinese domestic sources revealed that China had purchased a total of four sets of aircraft carrier landing systems from Russia and this was

China is working on an enormous aircraft carrier that

The satellite photos out of Dalian are not the first signs that China is moving toward building a nuclear-powered supercarrier to rival those fielded by

Fujian: China's latest and most high-tech aircraft carrier

China's latest and most capable aircraft carrier has officially entered service, a significant step forward for Beijing as it seeks to catch up with the

The Pentagon says China is on track for nine aircraft carriers by

The U.S. Department of Defense projects that China will operate as many as nine aircraft carriers by 2035, a fleet expansion that would reshape naval power across the Western Pacific and force ...

A look at the research revealing China's work on

In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, conventionally powered Chinese aircraft carriers Liaoning and Shandong carry out a dual

China's aircraft carriers begin to spread their wings

China has achieved milestones recently in developing aircraft-carrier operations and has been parading some notable capabilities. However, what they represent and

“The US Stunned by China's Leap”: China's

China's New Nuclear Powered Aircraft Carrier The People's Liberation Army Navy, or PLAN, first started carrier operations in the late 1990s

Type 004 aircraft carrier

The Type 004 aircraft carrier is an upcoming class of supercarriers for the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy. The yet-unnamed lead ship of the class is currently in construction at the Dalian Shipyard since 2024, and is the fourth aircraft carrier of the Chinese aircraft carrier programme and the third to be built indigenously by China. Like the proceeding Type 003 carrier Fujian, the Type 004 carriers will be capable of catapult-assisted takeoff but arrested recovery

China's emerging nuke carrier built to break US naval dominance

This month, The War Zone (TWZ) reported that China is advancing construction of its fourth aircraft carrier, widely referred to as the Type 004, at the Dalian shipyard in Liaoning province,

What to know about China's newest aircraft carrier, the

China's newest aircraft carrier, the Fujian, has officially entered service, making it the third in the country's fleet.

China's new aircraft carrier shows it is seeking power far

China commissions its first home-built aircraft carrier, which experts say will help what is already the world's largest navy expand power beyond its

What we know about China's first domestically made aircraft carrier ...

Beijing commissioned its first home-built aircraft carrier, the Fujian, highlighting Beijing's push to modernise its military and

China's Expanding Aircraft Carrier Capabilities: From a Carrier Gap to ...

A detailed look at how China aircraft carriers signal Beijing's naval ambition, advancing from ski-jump decks to EMALS-equipped supercarriers shaping Indo-Pacific dynamics.

Chinese aircraft carrier programme

The 55,000-ton ex-Soviet Kuznetsov class aircraft carrier Varyag, originally intended for the Soviet Navy and approximately 68% complete, was left moored in Black Sea Shipyard, Ukraine after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. In 1998, the ship, with only the hull completed and no propulsion system, was purchased by a private shell company based in Macau under the pretext of establishing a floating casino. Prior to the sale, V

Research reveals China has built prototype nuclear

There have long been rumors that China is planning to build a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, but the research by the Middlebury Institute of

China teases new aircraft carrier in video, vows to build up islands

China teased in a video an aircraft carrier that could be its fourth, and the first using nuclear power, while vowing to further build up its islands, as it looks to boost maritime power,...

“US Stunned by China's Power Leap”: These

In a bold move set to reshape global naval dynamics, China's development of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers promises to extend its maritime

Evidence Is Building China Wants a Nuclear Powered

What You Need to Know: New satellite imagery confirms China's development of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier reactor, a major leap in the

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