

# China Is Launching a Fake, Extra-bright Moon to Cut the Cost of City Lights

By [RT News](#)

Global Research, October 22, 2018

[RT News](#) 19 October 2018

Region: [Asia](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Science and Medicine](#)

*In a move that sounds straight out of a sci-fi paperback, China is planning to launch the first artificial 'moon' into orbit in order to replace street lights and reduce energy costs.*

Chinese scientists say the man-made moon, which is essentially an illuminated satellite, will be in orbit by 2020. It will be eight times brighter than Earth's moon and will shine down on the city of Chengdu, the capital of the southwestern Sichuan province.

It's hoped the innovation will replace the need for streetlights and will reduce annual electricity costs by up to 1.2 billion yuan (\$173 million).

Residents shouldn't worry that it will "light up the entire night sky," Wu Chunfeng, chief of the Tian Fu New Area Science Society, [said](#) to China Daily.

"Its expected brightness, in the eyes of humans, is around one-fifth of normal streetlights," he said, adding that it could even assist emergency services during blackouts and natural disasters.

The 'moon' will only illuminate a 50-square-kilometer area, as it's much closer to Earth than our real moon. It will sit about 500km (310 miles) away, compared to the moon's 380,000km (236,000 miles).

If the project proves successful, China plans to launch three more moons around the country by 2022.

"The first moon will be mostly experimental, but the three moons in 2022 will be the real deal with great civic and commercial potential," Wu said.

Before it makes its city debut, however, the moon will have to be tested in an uninhabited desert so that its light beams don't interfere with people or Earth-based space observation equipment.

\*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons above. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

The original source of this article is [RT News](#)  
Copyright © [RT News](#), [RT News](#), 2018

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [RT News](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)