

PRESS RELEASE

From the Great Silk Road to Space Technologies: Uzbekistan and China Successfully Launch the "Samarkand-2028" Satellite into Orbit

**Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan / Haiyang, People's Republic of China
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On 5 August 2026, between 07:00 and 09:00 Tashkent time, the **"Samarkand-2028" Earth observation satellite**, developed by **STAR.VISION** in cooperation with the **Uzbekcosmos Agency**, was successfully launched into orbit from the Haiyang Eastern Spaceport in the People's Republic of China.

The launch of the **"Samarkand-2028"** satellite marks the largest international space project in the history of the Republic of Uzbekistan and opens a new chapter in the development of the country's national space program. The project also represents a new milestone in the strategic scientific and technological partnership between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the People's Republic of China.

One of the mission's most significant achievements is that, for the first time in the history of STAR.VISION's international projects, an **artificial intelligence module developed by engineers of the Uzbekcosmos Agency** has been integrated into the satellite. This technology enables data collected by the satellite to be processed directly in orbit. As a result, the volume of transmitted data is significantly reduced, data delivery becomes faster, and the overall efficiency of subsequent analysis is greatly enhanced.

The **"Samarkand-2028"** mission will create new opportunities for applying space technologies in agriculture, environmental protection, natural resource monitoring, water resource management, disaster prevention, urban planning, and other strategic sectors of the economy. At the same time, the project will further strengthen Uzbekistan's national capabilities in space engineering, artificial intelligence, and satellite data processing.

One of the mission's most symbolic features is the satellite's name—**"Samarkand-2028."** This name was chosen deliberately. It reflects the historic decision adopted during the **76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC)** held in Sydney in 2025. Thanks to the initiative and dedicated efforts of the Uzbekcosmos Agency, the city of Samarkand was unanimously selected to host the **79th International Astronautical Congress (IAC)** in 2028.

This achievement became a historic milestone not only for Uzbekistan but for the entire Central Asian region. For the first time in history, a country in Central Asia secured the right to host the world's largest international forum of the global space

industry. This remarkable success inspired the name **"Samarkand-2028,"** which has become a symbol of the rapid development of Uzbekistan's space sector and the country's growing prestige within the global space community.

The name also carries profound historical significance. For centuries, Samarkand has been one of the world's leading centers of science, astronomy, and enlightenment. It was here, in the 15th century, that the great scholar and statesman **Mirzo Ulugbek** established one of the most advanced astronomical observatories of his era.

Shuhrat Kadirov, Director of the Uzbekcosmos Agency

"The successful launch of the 'Samarkand-2028' satellite into orbit is a truly historic achievement for Uzbekistan. Today, our country is no longer merely a user of space technologies—it is becoming a nation that actively contributes to their creation.

The integration of an artificial intelligence module developed by specialists of the Uzbekcosmos Agency into such a major international satellite project for the first time is of particular symbolic significance.

The choice of the name 'Samarkand' is equally meaningful. It reflects our country's rich scientific heritage and demonstrates the deep respect of our Chinese partners for Uzbekistan's history and culture.

All of these achievements have become possible thanks to the policy of openness, consistent reforms, and the strategic focus on science, innovation, and international cooperation pursued under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. This approach has elevated Uzbekistan's space sector to an entirely new level and created a solid foundation for implementing world-class space projects.

I am confident that this mission will become a reliable platform for further expanding strategic cooperation in the space sector between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the People's Republic of China."

Hu Bin, Vice President for Business Development, STAR.VISION (China)

"The 'Samarkand-2028' project clearly demonstrates how international cooperation can successfully combine advanced engineering solutions with innovative technologies.

The choice of the name 'Samarkand' reflects our deep respect for Uzbekistan's rich historical heritage and our commitment to building a long-term strategic partnership with our Uzbek colleagues.

We highly appreciate the contribution of the specialists from the Uzbekcosmos Agency, particularly their work in the field of artificial intelligence. Their developments have become an important component of the satellite's architecture.

We believe that this mission will make a valuable contribution to the advancement of space technologies and further strengthen cooperation between China and Uzbekistan."

The successful launch of the "**Samarkand-2028**" satellite once again confirms Uzbekistan's strong commitment to integrating into the global space ecosystem, expanding international scientific and technical cooperation, and introducing advanced technologies to support the country's sustainable socio-economic development.

The project also demonstrates the high level of mutual trust between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the People's Republic of China and establishes a solid foundation for future joint initiatives in space exploration, satellite technologies, artificial intelligence, and the training of highly qualified aerospace engineers.