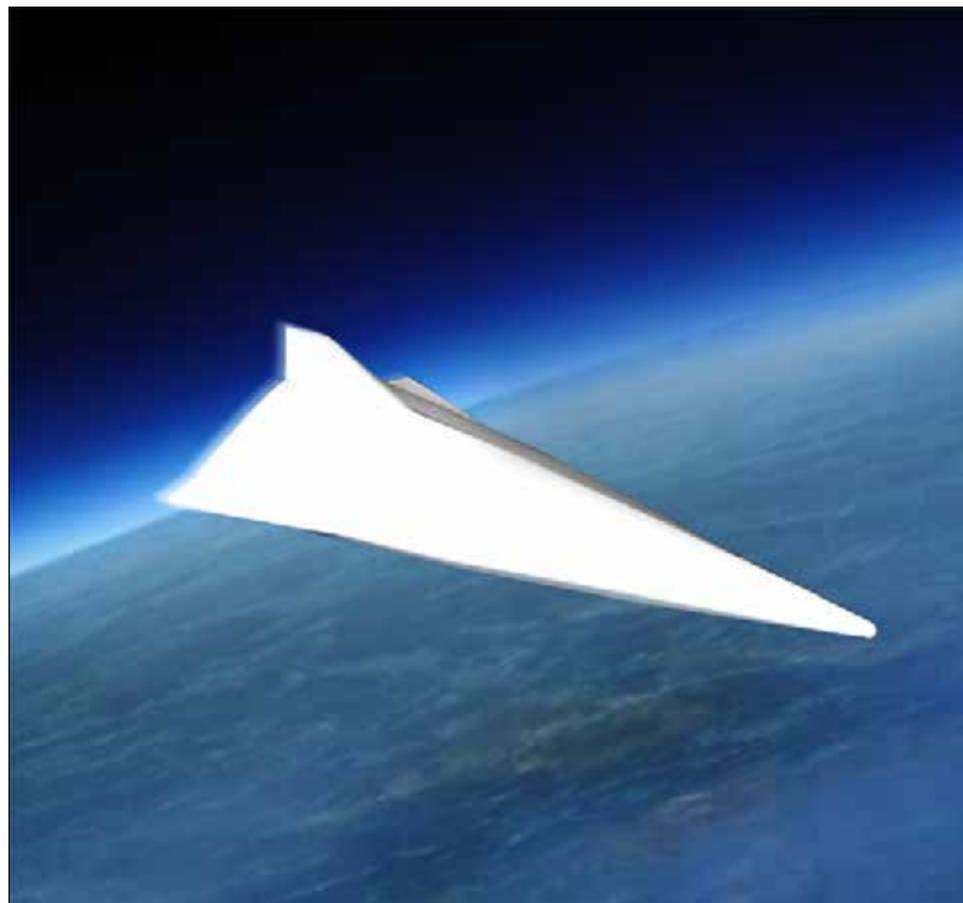




China Reports Development of Maneuvering Glide Ballistic Missile

OE Watch Commentary: On 22 November, China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) officially reported that it had developed maneuvering glide ballistic missile capabilities. If accurate, this is a significant step forward in the country’s military modernization process. The accompanying excerpted articles, published in *China Aerospace News* and *Global Times*, discuss the country’s latest reported achievement.

China has been working on developing maneuvering glide ballistic missile technology, otherwise referred to as a hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV), for at least the past three or four years as part of its strategic nuclear deterrence. An HGV is a weapon launched atop a ballistic missile, from which it separates at the edge of the atmosphere before gliding to an impact range. It uses precision guidance control technology and can move in a non-ballistic trajectory at supersonic speeds, making it difficult to counter. The technology combines advantages of the maneuverability of a cruise missile with the speed of a ballistic missile. According to the *Global Times*, the United States and Russia have also been pursuing the technology. However, China reportedly believes that its development in the technology show that its capabilities now “exceed those of the United States and Russia.” **End OE Watch Commentary (Hurst)**



One of the Chinese hypersonic gliding vehicle projects.

Source: 果壳军事 [CC BY-SA 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>)], from Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chinese_Hypersonic_Gliding_Vehicle.jpg.

“CASC has achieved leapfrogging development of conventional surface-to-surface missiles from the traditional ballistic flight to maneuverable gliding flight....”

Source: Yang Cheng and Gao Yiming, “CASC Obtains a Series of Achievements in Push for National Defense Modernization Building,” *Zhongguo Hangtian Bao*, 22 November 2018. <http://www.spacechina.com/n25/n144/n206/n214/c1974301/content.html>

Presently, [China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation] CASC has formed strategic nuclear deterrent systems with both solid and liquid propellants, rockets with complementary ranges, land- and sea-based equipment, and equipment with significantly improved power and efficacy. In doing so, CASC has achieved leapfrogging development of conventional surface-to-surface missiles from the traditional ballistic flight to maneuverable gliding flight, and has produced complementary air-defense and anti-missile defense equipment systems for high, medium, and low altitudes. In addition, they have actively extended their development into areas, such as UAVs, rockets, and guided bombs, and have made important contributions towards modernization building in our national defense and preserving world peace.

Looking to the future, CASC will keep its mission in mind, advance forward, and will strive tirelessly to support the establishment of a world-class army, achieving the Chinese dream, and the dream of a strong army. It will make even greater contributions to protecting national interests and peaceful global development.

Source: “中国官宣掌握机动滑翔式弹道导弹技术 已变身领跑者 (China Makes Official Announcement that it has Achieved Maneuvering Glide Missile Technology), *Global Times*, 30 November 2018. <http://chinanews.sina.com/gb/chnmilitary/chnmilitary/huanqiu/2018-11-30/doc-iwnpmhhh7709090.shtml>

Coincidentally, countries are also competing to develop motorized gliding ballistic technology.

The leap forward in China’s ground-to-ground missiles from traditional ballistic to motorized gliding is of great significance, having gone from lagging behind to achieving military powers that exceed those of the United States and Russia. In line with our interests, our frontiers are expanding into new areas of space. The Chinese People’s Liberation Army Rocket Forces has become a strategic force capable of defending the sovereignty of both sea and land. ... this new “killer” will surely improve our military’s ability to respond to various threats.