



# Progress in Chinese Indigenous Attack and Reconnaissance UAVs

**OE Watch Commentary:** China has been making rapid progress in recent years in the development of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) systems. During the recent 12th China Air Show in Zhuhai, the country finally unveiled its much anticipated Gongji-2 (GJ-2), an integrated reconnaissance and attack UAV. Published in *Xinhua* nearly three weeks after the conclusion of the air show, the accompanying excerpted article offers more detail and possible insight into the GJ-2's capabilities.

According to the report, the GJ-2 (developed by the Aviation Industry Corporation of China's Chengdu Aircraft Design Institute) is an upgraded model of the Gongji-1 (GJ-1), which was displayed during the 2014 China Air Show. The GJ-1 was the first Chinese-made integrated reconnaissance and attack UAV. The report explains that the GJ-2 UAV has a greatly improved propulsion, detection performance, and weapons load capacity. It features synthetic aperture radar, an opto-electronic pod, and an electronic reconnaissance system, all of which allow it to acquire more complete information on its target. It can fly continuously for 20 hours at altitudes of 9,000 meters above sea level and has the capacity to carry up to 12 small missiles underneath its wings, making it an ideal choice in conducting border patrol, according to the article.

In earlier reports, there was confusion about the difference between the GJ-2 and another UAV, the Wing Loong II. Some of these reports had stated that the Wing Loong II had successfully completed its first maiden voyage in October. The Wing Loong II, however, according to this article, is likely the export version of the GJ-2. **End OE Watch Commentary (Hurst)**

**Source:** Li Guowei and Li Wei, “攻击-2型无人机可以用来干什么 (What Can the Gongji-2 UAV Be Used For?)” *Xinhua*, 29 November 2018. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/mil/2018-11/29/c\\_1210005173.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/mil/2018-11/29/c_1210005173.htm)

*The Gongji-2 unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) made its debut at the 12th China air show, held not long ago, attracting everyone's attention. The Gongji-2 is a medium and high altitude, long endurance, integrated reconnaissance and attack UAV system researched and built by China on its own. It is an important piece of equipment for China as it carries out border patrols and fights terrorism.*

*At the 2014 China air show the Chinese Air Force displayed openly for the first time the Gongji-1 integrated reconnaissance and attack UAV. That aircraft was the first Chinese-made integrated reconnaissance and attack UAV, and it has performed outstandingly in joint anti-terrorism exercises. The Gongji-2 UAV is a high-end integrated reconnaissance and attack UAV researched and built by Aviation Industry Corporation of China's Chengdu Aircraft Design Institute. Compared with the Gongji-1, the Gongji-2 UAV is greatly improved in terms of propulsion, detection performance, and ability to carry things.*

*The Gongji-2 UAV ... can fly as fast as 370km/h, at a maximum altitude of 9,000 meters.*

*The mission systems of the Gongji-2 UAV include synthetic aperture radar, an opto-electronic pod, and an electronic reconnaissance system. It can acquire more complete information about a target, thus providing the commander a more complete basis for a decision. Compared with the Gongji-1, the Gongji-2 UAV can carry more weapons and attack more targets, and it can carry heavier weapons and attack targets with strong defenses. There are six weapon suspension points underneath the wings of the Gongji-2 UAV, and at most it can carry 12 small missiles. The additional external suspension capability gives the Gongji-2 greater striking power.*

*The Gongji-2 UAV ...is capable of flying on its own. It can fly continuously for 20 hours carrying opto-electronic/infrared reconnaissance equipment, and it can conduct omnidirectional reconnaissance and surveillance of a combat area. Patrolling our country's borders involves long patrol lines, high altitudes above sea level, severely cold and changeable weather, and adverse natural environments.*

*“Compared with the Gongji-1, the Gongji-2 UAV can carry more weapons and attack more targets, and it can carry heavier weapons and attack targets with strong defenses.”*



Wing Loong II side view, Dubai Air Show 2017.

Source: Mztourist [CC BY-SA 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>)], from Wikimedia Commons, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wing\\_Loong\\_II\\_side\\_view.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wing_Loong_II_side_view.jpg).