
Iran to launch satellite into space.

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Iran is poised to launch a satellite into space, Aviation Week and Space Technology has said on its website.

According to Iranmania.com, a recently assembled, 30-ton ballistic missile-turned space launcher could also be used for testing longer-range missile strike technologies.

The Iranian space launcher 'will liftoff soon' with an Iranian satellite, said Alaoddin Boroujerdi, chairman of the Iranian parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission.

Iran's space launcher raises concerns in the West that it could eventually lead to an Iranian intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) with a range of nearly 4,000 kilometers (2,500 miles), putting central Europe, Russia, China and India within its range.

The planned satellite launch, besides demonstrating Iran's technical prowess, 'would be a potent political and emotional weapon in the Middle East,' the Aviation Week article said.

'Orbiting its own satellite would send a powerful message throughout the Muslim world about the Shiite regime in Tehran,' it said.
