

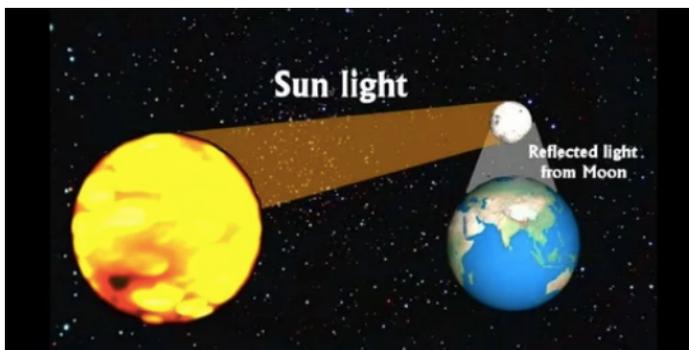
# The Chinese City Of Chengdu May Soon Be Home To Multiple "Moons"

By: Diane Christiansen



Always wished the Earth had a second moon? Then you will be pleased to hear that the Chengdu Aerospace Science and Technology Microelectronics System Research Institute has plans to launch multiple mini moons, the first one of which will appear in the skies as early as 2020.

The Institute's Chairman, Wu Chunfeng, made the exciting announcement at a conference held in Chengdu from October 9th to 15th, 2018. Similar to our natural [satellite](#), the artificial orb's light will be obtained from the sun and reflected to Earth by its mirror-like coating. However, since the mini moon will be situated a mere 300 miles above the city of Chengdu, it will appear eight-times brighter than the real moon. According to Chunfeng, the amount of light being reflected can be controlled from Earth and even switched off, if necessary.



While the multiple mini moons will certainly appear to be beautiful, the purpose of this challenging **endeavor** is to **conserve** resources. Experts are certain that the mini moon's dusk-like glow will allow them to **eliminate** costly streetlights in China's **bustling** cities. They estimate that using the artificial satellite to light up just 31 square miles (50 square kilometers) of Chengdu's night sky will save the city an estimated 1.2 billion yuan (\$174 million) annually. Since the orb's location can be easily moved, it could also be used to shine light over disaster-struck areas that have lost power.



Mini-moons may soon replace Chengu's bright lights at night (Photo Credit: By Charlie Fong – CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons)

Once the first mini moon is working successfully, the experts plan to launch three additional ones, hopefully by 2022. Together, the satellites, which will take turns depending on their position relative to the sun, are expected to light up an area of 2,000 to 4,000 square miles (3,600 to 6,400 square kilometers). While the orbs will be **visible** through a telescope from anywhere on the globe, their real beauty will only be seen by visiting the city. The officials, therefore, believe they will be a huge tourist draw, helping boost Chengdu's economy. So, city will not only save money but make money as well.

As is often the case with radical **breakthroughs**, the artificial moons are causing lots of concern among some experts. They are concerned about the moons' impact on the sleep patterns of both humans and animals. However, Chengdu Aerospace officials believe the satellites will cause minimal, if any, **disruption** to the sleep patterns of most individuals.

"We will only conduct our tests in an uninhabited desert, so our light beams will not interfere with any people or Earth-based space observation equipment," Chunfeng told China Daily. "When the satellite is in operation, people will see only a bright star above, and not a giant moon as imagined."