



亚马逊发射首颗互联网卫星，欲与“星链”竞争

Amazon launches first internet satellites in bid to compete with Starlink

中文导读：

四年多前，亚马逊宣布了大举投资建设全球互联网卫星的雄心勃勃的计划。而本周五（10月6日），这家科技巨头见证了其“柯伊伯（Kuiper）计划”系统的首批共两颗互联网卫星发射升空。

Amazon stretched its reach to space on Friday, sending its first two internet satellites to orbit, a key step toward building out a constellation of more than 3,000 satellites that it hopes will compete with SpaceX's Starlink system to provide online access to millions without it.

周五，亚马逊将其触角延伸至太空，将其首批两颗互联网卫星送入轨道，这是朝着建立一个由3000多颗卫星组成的星座迈出的关键一步，亚马逊希望这些卫星能够与SpaceX的星链（Starlink）系统竞争，为数百万没有网络的人提供在线访问服务。

重点词汇：



stretch: v. 伸展；延伸

satellite: n. 卫星

orbit: n. 轨道

constellation: n. 星座；星群

compete with: 与...竞争

provide: v. 提供

online access: 在线访问

 **固定搭配:**

build out: 扩建；建设

The company plans to build out its infrastructure to support the growing demand for its services. (该公司计划扩展其基础设施，以支持其服务不断增长的需求。)

key step toward: 关键步骤朝向

Completing this project is a key step toward achieving our long-term goals. (完成这个项目是朝着实现我们长期目标的关键步骤。)

compete with: 与...竞争

Our product is designed to compete with similar offerings in the market. (我们的产品旨在与市场上类似的产品竞争。)

The pair of prototype satellites were launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla., at 2:06 p.m. Eastern on an Atlas V rocket operated by the United Launch Alliance, the joint venture of Boeing and Lockheed Martin. Amazon said Friday evening that the satellites had been successfully deployed in orbit and that the company had made contact with them.

这对原型卫星是由联合发射联盟 (United Launch Alliance)，即波音和洛克希德·马丁的合资企业，操作的 Atlas V 火箭于东部时间下午 2:06 从佛罗里达州卡纳维拉尔



角发射升空的。亚马逊周五晚间表示，卫星已成功部署在轨道上，公司已与它们建立了联系。

重点词汇：

pair: n. 一对；一双

prototype: n. 原型；样机

launch: v. 发射

operate: v. 操作；运营

venture: n. 风险项目，冒险事业

Boeing: 波音公司

Lockheed Martin: 洛克希德·马丁公司

deploy: v. 部署，调度

orbit: n. 轨道

contact: n. 联系；接触

固定搭配：

launch from: 从...发射

The spacecraft is scheduled to launch from the Kennedy Space Center. (太空船计划从肯尼迪航天中心发射。)

Over the coming days and weeks, Amazon hopes to use the satellites to “add real-world data from space to years of data collected from lab and field testing” as it works to put up the rest of its Kuiper constellation, the company said in a blog post.

亚马逊在一篇博客文章中表示，在未来的几天和几周内，亚马逊希望利用这些卫星“将来自太空的真实数据与多年来从实验室和现场测试中收集的数据相结合”，同时亚马逊还在努力建立柯伊伯（Kuiper）星座的其余部分。

重点词汇：

coming: adj. 即将到来的

real-world: adj. 真实世界的

data: n. 数据



space: n. 太空

collect: v. 收集

lab: n. 实验室

field: n. 领域；实地

testing: n. 测试

 **固定搭配:**

over the coming days and weeks: 在接下来的几天和几周内

Over the coming days and weeks, we will be working diligently to complete this project. (在接下来的几天和几周内, 我们将努力完成这个项目。)

“We’ve done extensive testing here in our lab and have a high degree of confidence in our satellite design. But there’s no substitute for on-orbit testing,” Rajeev Badyal, Kuiper’s vice president of technology, said in the post. “This is Amazon’s first time putting satellites into space, and we’re going to learn an incredible amount regardless of how the mission unfolds.”

柯伊伯的技术副总裁 Rajeev Badyal 在博文中表示：“我们在实验室里做了大量的测试, 对我们的卫星设计非常有信心。但在轨测试是无可替代的。这是亚马逊第一次将卫星送入太空, 无论任务如何展开, 我们都将学到大量的知识。”

 **重点词汇:**

extensive: adj. 广泛的; 广博的

confidence: n. 自信, 信心; 信任

satellite: n. 卫星

design: n. 设计

substitute: n. 替代品

on-orbit: adj. 在轨道上的

vice president: 副总裁

technology: n. 技术



mission: n. 任务；使命

 **固定搭配:**

high degree of confidence: 高度的信心

After extensive research, they had a high degree of confidence in the safety of the new technology. (经过广泛的研究，他们对新技术的安全性有着高度的信心。)

put satellites into space: 发射卫星进入太空

This is the first time our company has put satellites into space. (这是我们公司首次将卫星发射进入太空。)

Amazon, which has said it intends to invest more than \$10 billion in the network, hopes to launch its first production satellites during the first half of next year and begin preliminary testing with commercial customers by the end of 2024. Under its license from the Federal Communications Commission, it must launch half of the 3,236 satellites it foresees in the constellation by July 2026.

亚马逊曾表示打算为该网络投资超 100 亿美元，希望在明年上半年发射首批生产卫星，并在 2024 年底前开始与商业客户进行初步测试。根据美国联邦通信委员会的许可，亚马逊必须在 2026 年 7 月之前发射该星座 3,236 颗卫星中的一半。

 **重点词汇:**

intend: v. 打算；意图

invest: v. 投资

network: n. 网络

launch: v. 发射

preliminary: adj. 初步的，预备的

commercial: adj. 商业的，商务的

license: n. 许可；执照



Federal Communications Commission: 联邦通信委员会

foresee: v. 预见；预料

constellation: n. 星座

 **固定搭配:**

invest in: 投资于

The company plans to invest in new technologies to stay competitive in the market. (公司计划投资于新技术，以在市场上保持竞争力。)

launch satellites: 发射卫星

The space agency will launch satellites to explore outer space. (太空机构将发射卫星探索外太空。)

The goal is to connect the many millions of people in rural and remote areas without access to broadband. The system works by beaming internet signals from the satellites to small ground terminals.

其目标是将农村和偏远地区数百万无法使用宽带的人们连接起来。该系统的工作原理是将互联网信号从卫星发送到小型地面终端。

 **重点词汇:**

goal: n. 目标；目的

connect: v. 连接

rural: adj. 农村的

remote: adj. 偏远的

broadband: n. 宽带；宽频

system: n. 系统

beam: v. 发射（光、信号等）

internet signals: 互联网信号

terminal: n. 终端



固定搭配:

access to broadband: 宽带接入

Improving access to broadband is essential for bridging the digital divide. (改善宽带接入是弥合数字鸿沟的关键。)

beam signals to: 发射信号到...

The satellite beams signals to the ground stations. (卫星将信号发射到地面站。)

Amazon executives see the Kuiper network as an eventual competitor to SpaceX's Starlink service, which has grown quickly and has become a lifeline in Ukraine, as well a flash point for controversy. SpaceX founder Elon Musk did not want it used for offensive drone attacks and declined to turn it on within 100 kilometers of the Crimean coast, which hampered a Ukrainian attack on Russian forces. But it will take several years to fully build out Amazon's system and give Musk real competition.

亚马逊的高管认为，柯伊伯网络最终将成为 SpaceX 的星链服务的竞争对手。后者发展迅速，已成为乌克兰的生命线，同时也是争议的导火索。SpaceX 的创始人埃隆·马斯克不希望它被用于进攻性无人机攻击，并拒绝在克里米亚海岸 100 公里范围内启用它，这阻碍了乌克兰对俄罗斯军队的攻击。但完全建立亚马逊的系统并给马斯克带来真正的竞争还需要几年的时间。

重点词汇:

executive: n. 高管；执行人员

eventual: adj. 最终的；终于的

competitor: n. 竞争对手

service: n. 服务

lifeline: n. 生命线；救生索

controversy: n. 争议；争论



founder: n. 创始人

offensive: adj. 进攻性的；冒犯性的

drone: n. 无人机

attack: v. 袭击，攻击

decline: v. 拒绝

coast: n. 海岸

hamper: v. 阻碍；妨碍

固定搭配:

flash point for: ...的爆发点

The controversial decision became a flash point for heated debates among the members. (这个具有争议的决定成为了会员们激烈争论的爆发点。)

turn it on within: 在...范围内启动

The security measures required the system to be turned on within a specific radius. (安全措施要求在特定半径范围内启动系统。)

Not only is Amazon under deadline pressure, the company has awarded contracts to launch the bulk of its Kuiper network on a trio of rockets — Blue Origin's New Glenn, ULA's Vulcan, and Arianespace's Ariane 6 — that have faced repeated delays and have yet to fly. Bezos also owns Blue Origin.

亚马逊不仅面临最后期限的压力，该公司还签署了合同，计划使用一组火箭来发射其柯伊伯网络的大部分卫星，这些火箭包括蓝色起源（Blue Origin）公司的新格伦"（New Glenn）、ULA 的火神（Vulcan）以及阿丽亚娜航天公司（Arianespace）的阿丽亚娜 6 号（Arianespace's Ariane 6）。然而，这些火箭一再面临延误，尚未首飞。值得一提的是，贝索斯还拥有蓝色起源公司。

重点词汇:



deadline: n. 截止日期

award: v. 授予；奖励

contract: n. 合同；契约

launch: v. 发射

bulk: n. 大部分；大批

rocket: n. 火箭

Blue Origin: 蓝色起源（太空公司，由 Jeff Bezos 创立）

New Glenn: 新格伦（蓝色起源的火箭项目）

ULA: 联合发射联盟（United Launch Alliance，波音和洛克希德·马丁公司的合资企业）

Vulcan: 火神号（联合发射联盟的火箭项目）

Arianespace: 阿里安斯空间公司

Ariane 6: 阿丽亚娜 6（阿里安斯空间公司的火箭项目）

delay: n. 延误

fly: v. 飞行

Bezos: 贝索斯（亚马逊创始人，拥有蓝色起源）

固定搭配:

award contracts to: 授予合同给...

The company awarded contracts to several suppliers to source the required materials.（公司授予了合同给多家供应商，以采购所需材料。）

Those launch contracts spurred a lawsuit, filed in August by an Amazon shareholder, that alleges the company breached its fiduciary duty by failing to consider giving the launch business to SpaceX, one of the most affordable and reliable launch providers in the world.

这些发射合同引发了一场诉讼，亚马逊的一名股东于 8 月份提起诉讼，称亚马逊未能考虑将发射业务交给 SpaceX 公司，从而违反了其受托责任，而 SpaceX 是世界上最实惠、最可靠的发射供应商之一。

重点词汇:



spur: v. 刺激; 激励

lawsuit: n. 诉讼

file: v. 提起 (诉讼)

shareholder: n. 股东

allege: v. 断言; 声称

breach: v. 违反

fiduciary: adj. 信托的, 信用的

consider: v. 考虑

affordable: adj. 价格合理的

reliable: adj. 可靠的

 **固定搭配:**

give the business to: 将业务交给...

The company decided to give the project to a reputable contractor. (公司决定将项目交给一家声誉良好的承包商。)

“By excluding SpaceX, Bezos and his management team minimized bid competition for the launch agreements and likely committed Amazon to spending hundreds of millions of dollars more than it would have otherwise had to,” the suit says. It also alleges that part of the reason Amazon didn’t use SpaceX was because of the rivalry between Bezos and SpaceX founder Elon Musk. “Given their bitter track record, Bezos had every reason to exclude Musk’s SpaceX from the process entirely,” the lawsuit says. “And Bezos, it must be assumed, could not swallow his pride to seek his bitter rival’s help to launch Amazon’s satellites.”

该诉讼声称：“通过将 SpaceX 排除在外，贝佐斯及其管理团队最大限度地减少了发射协议的竞标竞争，并很可能使亚马逊不得不多支出数亿美元。” 诉讼还声称，亚马逊之所以没有选择 SpaceX 的部分原因是因为贝佐斯和 SpaceX 创始人埃隆·



马斯克之间的竞争。诉讼称：“鉴于他们之间的不和记录，贝索斯完全有理由将马斯克的 SpaceX 公司排除在整个流程之外。必须假设，贝索斯无法忍气吞声地寻求他的死对头来帮助发射亚马逊的卫星。”

重点词汇：

exclude: v. 排除；排斥

minimize: v. 最小化；减少

agreement: n. 协议，协定，契约

commit: v. 承诺；使...受约束

suit: n. 诉讼；起诉

allege: v. 断言；声称

rivalry: n. 竞争；对抗

track: v. 追查，追踪

swallow one's pride: 忍辱；放下自尊

seek: v. 寻找；寻求

固定搭配：

swallow one's pride: 忍辱；放下自尊

He had to swallow his pride and ask for help when he faced a difficult situation. (面对困境，他不得不忍辱向别人寻求帮助。)

Amazon has denied the allegations. “The claims in this lawsuit are completely without merit, and we look forward to showing that through the legal process,” a spokesperson said. In an interview with Washington Post Live last year, Dave Limp, Amazon’s senior vice president for devices and services, said the company was “open to talking to SpaceX. You’d be crazy not to, given their track record.” Limp was recently named the chief executive of Blue Origin, a position he is expected to assume in December.



亚马逊已否认了这些指控。一位发言人表示：“这起诉讼中的主张毫无根据，我们期待通过法律程序来证明这一点。”去年，亚马逊负责设备和服务的高级副总裁戴夫·林普（Dave Limp）在接受《华盛顿邮报现场》采访时表示，该公司“愿意与 SpaceX 进行对话。鉴于他们的往绩，不与他们交流是不明智的。”林普最近被任命为蓝色起源公司的首席执行官，预计将于 12 月就职。

重点词汇：

allegation: n. 指控；指责

completely: adv. 完全地；彻底地

merit: n. 事实真相

look forward to: 期待

legal: adj. 法律允许的，合法的

spokesperson: n. 发言人

interview: n. 采访

senior vice president: 高级副总裁

device: n. 装置，设备

open to: 对...持开放态度

chief: adj. 首要的，主要的

executive: n. 主管，经理

assume: v. 承担；担任

固定搭配：

look forward to: 期待

We look forward to your visit next week. (我们期待着下周的访问。)

SpaceX, meanwhile, has taken a massive lead with its Starlink system. It has nearly 5,000 satellites operating in orbit, and the company, which has launched 70 times already this year, has been able to launch them rapidly on its Falcon 9 rocket. The company has said its system is working in more than 60 countries and has more than 2 million active customers. Last month, SpaceX also won a Pentagon contract worth up to



\$70 million for its Starshield system, the military version of Starlink.

与此同时，SpaceX 凭借其星链系统取得了巨大的领先优势。它有近 5000 颗卫星在轨道上运行，该公司今年已经发射了 70 次，并能够通过猎鹰 9 号火箭快速发射这些卫星。该公司表示，其系统已在 60 多个国家投入使用，拥有 200 多万活跃客户。上个月，SpaceX 还赢得了五角大楼价值高达 7000 万美元的 Starshield 系统合同，该系统是星链的军用版本。

重点词汇：

meanwhile: adv. 与此同时

massive: adj. 巨大的；庞大的

lead: n. 领先地位

Starlink system: 星链系统 (SpaceX 的卫星互联网服务)

Falcon 9 rocket: 猎鹰 9 号火箭

Pentagon: 五角大楼 (美国国防部总部所在地)

worth: adj. 价值...的

military: adj. 军事的，军队的

固定搭配：

take a lead: 取得领先地位

The team's innovative approach helped them take a lead in the competition. (团队的创新方法帮助他们在竞争中取得了领先地位。)

operate in: 在...运作

The company operates in multiple countries around the world. (该公司在世界各地运作。)

worth up to: 价值...

The contract is worth up to \$50 million. (这份合同价值高达5000万美元。)



Still, Amazon is confident it will be able to compete.

尽管如此，亚马逊仍然有信心能够参与竞争。

 **重点词汇：**

confident: adj. 自信的；有信心的

compete: v. 竞争；比赛

“I think this is one of those things where the headlines would have you think that this is a sports race, and there's going to be one winner,” Limp told The Post last year. “There are literally hundreds of millions of customers around the world that don't have access to great broadband. ... I think there's plenty of room for two great constellations.”

林普去年曾对《华盛顿邮报》说：“我认为，头条新闻会让你认为这是一场体育竞赛，只有一个赢家。全世界有数以亿计的用户无法使用优质宽带。……我认为有足够的空间容纳两个伟大的星座。”

 **重点词汇：**

headline: n. 头条新闻；标题

literally: adv. 确实地；字面上地

broadband: n. 宽带；宽频

plenty of: 大量的

 **固定搭配：**

have access to: 访问；接入

It's important to ensure that everyone has access to quality education. (确保每个人都能够获得优质教育是很重要的。)



plenty of room for: 足够的空间供...

There is plenty of room for improvement in our current processes. (在我们当前的流程中有足够的改进空间。)

Amazon believes it has an advantage by building on its already massive customer base, as well as its cloud computing business, Amazon Web Services, which it has said should help the company deliver high-speed internet.

亚马逊相信，依托其庞大的客户群体以及其云计算业务 Amazon Web Services (AWS) 的优势，这有助于该公司提供高速互联网服务。

 **重点词汇:**

advantage: n. 优势；有利条件

massive: adj. 巨大的；庞大的

Amazon Web Services (AWS): 亚马逊网络服务（亚马逊旗下的云计算服务平台）

 **固定搭配:**

build on: 基于；建立在...

The company plans to build on its existing technology to create innovative products. (该公司计划基于其现有技术来创建创新产品。)

deliver high-speed internet: 提供高速互联网

The new infrastructure will allow us to deliver high-speed internet to rural areas. (新基础设施将使我们能够为农村地区提供高速互联网。)

