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SPACE SAIL CUP DESIGN COMPETITION IN 1989: THE FIRST TIME FOR CHINA ENGINEERS
TO ATTEMPT DEEP SPACE MISSION DESIGN

Abstract

On December 10, 1988 the Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission, a Presidential commission created by the Congress of the United States, approved the establishment of a Columbus 500 Space Sail Cup competition to commemorate the Columbus voyage to the Americas in 1492. The intention of Columbus 500 Space Sail Cup is to select three winners from Americas, Europe and Asia.

In 1989, China young engineers and M.S. students organized a team called STAR GROUP to join the competition and won the first place of Asia region. This paper introduced the story of this event.