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Europe's new weather satellite goes into orbit

歐洲新氣象衛星進入軌道



(本節目所用的音訊資源發表於 2022 年 12 月中旬。)

近日，一顆重要的歐洲衛星已被送入預定軌道，氣象衛星“**Meteosat-12**”搭乘阿麗亞娜火箭從法屬圭亞那的庫魯航太發射中心起飛，開啟了天氣預報的新時代。

The value to society of satellite **meteorology** is **immense**. In terms of lives saved and **infrastructure** damage that's avoided, the returns on investment run into billions annually.

衛星氣象學的社會價值是巨大的，就衛星氣象學挽救的生命和因其免遭破壞的基礎設施而言，每年相關投資的回報可達數十億美元。

Europe's new Meteosat will replace technology that is now more than 20 years old. National **forecasting** agencies like the UK Met Office and Meteo France will see a big jump in the amount of data they receive. One of the major **innovations** on the new Meteosat is the inclusion of a camera to detect lightning.

歐洲的新氣象衛星“**Meteosat**”將取代已有 20 多年歷史的技術，英國氣象局和法國氣象局等國家天氣預報機構收到的資料量將大幅增加，新氣象衛星“**Meteosat**”的主要創新之一是安裝了一個探測閃電的攝像頭。

The agencies believe this will be a **boon** to what they call **nowcasting** – the ability to track and **forewarn** of **imminent hazardous** events. That's because lightning is a **tracer** for violent wind gusts, heavy rain and hail.

這些氣象機構認為，新衛星的運用將有利於所謂的“臨近預報”，即追蹤並預警即將發生危險天氣事件的能力，這是因為新衛星可以通過觀測閃電來追蹤狂風、大雨和冰雹。

1. 字彙表

meteorology	氣象學
immense	巨大的
infrastructure	基礎設施
forecasting	預報
innovations	創新
boon	有用的物品
nowcasting	臨近預報
forewarn	預先警告
imminent	臨近的，即將發生的
hazardous	危險的
tracer	用於追蹤某物的事物

2. 閱讀理解：請在讀完上文後，回答下列問題。（答案見下頁）

1. What are the benefits to society of satellite meteorology?
2. How old is Europe's current meteorology satellite technology?
3. How will this new satellite be able to detect lightning?
4. What benefit does the ability to detect lightning bring?

3. 答案

1. What are the benefits to society of satellite meteorology?

It can save lives and helps to avoid infrastructure being damaged.

2. How old is Europe's current meteorology satellite technology?

Europe's new Meteosat will replace technology that is now more than 20 years old.

3. How will this new satellite be able to detect lightning?

This new Meteosat satellite includes a camera to detect lightning.

4. What benefit does the ability to detect lightning bring?

Lightning can identify where violent wind gusts, heavy rain and hail may occur.