

# Ningbo's Gen Zs Send Teddy Bear into Stratosphere

Striving towards a modern coastal metropolis  
建设现代化滨海大都市



Breathtaking view of Earth from 26,000 meters.



Li Zhenghan, representative of the UNNC student research team.

A video titled "Sending Teddy Bear up to 26,000 meters into Stratosphere" has captivated millions of viewers across China's social media since October 31.

10月31日,一则“玩具熊飞上万公里高空”的视频火爆全网。

There was a bitter-sweet journey behind the scenes of an extraordinary balloon trial conducted by a student research team. The experiment took place near the border between Tongliao city (Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region) and Fuxin city (Liaoning Province) in North China. A furry toy bear - dressed up in an archetypal lab coat - was launched into the stratosphere at an altitude of roughly 26,000 meters, revealing a mesmerizing view of Earth with its body camera.

视频中,一只毛绒小熊从位于东海之滨的宁波诺丁汉大学(简称宁诺)出发,一路跋山涉水,来到辽宁阜新和内蒙古通辽的交界处。在经历了称重、温度检测、伴随着“呼啦”一声,带着小熊的气球乘风而起,扶摇直上。在穿越翻滚如波涛的云海后,散发着梦幻蓝色光晕的地球缓缓出现,形成一幅绝美的画面。

The team behind the practice and video is led by senior students Li Zhenghan and Wang Zechen from the Faculty of Science and Engineering, University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC).

做这次飞行试验和录制视频的人,是来自宁波诺丁汉大学理工学院的大四学生李正汉和他的项目团队。

During his campus days, Li has dedicated himself to the innovation of high-quality mechanical devices through thinking creatively. His exceptional DIY ideas and skills have made him a campus celebrity at UNNC.

在宁诺,李正汉一直致力于研发“质量靠谱、想法离谱”的创意机械,被众多师生亲切地称为“宁诺手工耿”。

“Ever since I was a child, I've always dreamed of becoming an astronaut or a pilot. Unfortunately, I failed the fitness test when applying for a relative major. Nevertheless, my fascination with space remains unwavering,” Li shared. “The idea occurred to me as I saw other similar attempts online, and they revoked my long-buried dream. However, at that time, I was still a first-year student without much professional knowledge and had no clue where to start.”

“我从小就有一个航空航天梦。遗憾的是高中飞行员考试体检最后一关没过,最终没能成为空军飞行学员。可我还是想看看天上的风景。”李正汉表示,“小熊飞天”的想法源自一次网上冲浪。当看到其他手工发烧友进行了类似实践后,埋藏于他心底的飞天梦再一次被唤醒,“但那时我还是初入学校的萌新,知识储备不足,完全不知道该如何下手。”

Attaining a dream isn't a hasty affair; rather, it's a gradual, step-by-step journey. Following four years of dedicated study, Li steadily fostered expertise in mechanical engineering, programming, modeling, and electrical circuits. Bolstered by a wealth of experience garnered from numerous mechanical engineering experiments, he realized that the opportunity moment had finally approached.

完成梦想并不急于一时,更需要一步一个脚印地践行。在经历了大学四年的机械工程学习后,随着机械工程领域知识、编程技术、建模技能、电路知识的日渐充足,以及数次机械工程实验的经验积累,李正汉觉得时机到了。

Even luckier, Li encountered a like-minded teammate - Wang Zechen, his fellow major mate. Their shared passion for mechanical engineering made them instant friends. Li and his teammates took the faculty's distinctive mascot - the lab bear - as the protagonist of this test flight. They aimed to accomplish this captivating challenge as a pre-graduation gift to themselves in celebration of youth.

更幸运的是,他遇到了志同道合的队友——同专业的王泽晨,机械发烧友的共同属性让他们一拍即合。李正汉和队友选择了宁波诺丁汉大学理工学院的特色吉祥物——理工实验服小熊,并决定在毕业前大胆尝试这个很酷的项目,让青春画上圆满的句号。

After 60 days and nights of unwavering dedication, all crew members wholeheartedly immersed themselves in a series of trials involving sketching, wiring adjustment, 3D printing, and temperature control experiments.

确定想法后,两人和项目组的其他成员住进了宁波诺丁汉大学理工楼里。从盛夏到初秋,历经中秋国庆假期在内的60个日夜,画草图、捣鼓电线装置、3D打印模型、反复实验温控,团队全身心扑在实验上。

Following the National Day holiday, Li and his teammates embarked officially on their dream journey to reach the stratosphere.

国庆假期结束后,李正汉和队友带着经过测试的装备,正式踏上了逐梦大气层的旅程。

The process of launching was far from smooth. Just five hours before the flight, a power supply port in the equipment burnt out. Unexpected conditions followed - such as wiring issues with the

cooling fan, unexpected detection of the jet stream, and multiple tire blowouts. However, the team tackled each challenge without giving up. Ultimately, as the little bear swayed its way up to the stratosphere at 26,000 meters, these passionate youngsters of Generation Z (people born in the late 1990s and early 2000s) paid homage to their youth and dreams.

放飞过程并不如视频中那般顺利。临近放飞前5个小时,设备的一个供电口烧坏了。“不幸”接踵而来:散热风扇接线出了问题、突然监测到西风急流、多次遭遇爆胎……团队一一解决。最终,随着小熊晃晃悠悠来到26000米的平流层,这些热血的Z世代青年们也完成了对青春和梦想的致敬。

The unexpected viral success of their video was a pleasant surprise for UNNC's young engineers. It further served as a validation of their years of study and hard work. “Thanks to the open, inclusive, and diverse environment fostered by our school, we feel free to develop our potential and imagination into reality,” Li owed their success to UNNC.

视频的爆火,让这群习惯于埋头实验的年轻学子有些不知所措,但项目的成功,却是对他们多年努力的一种肯定。“很感谢学校一直以来营造的开放、包容、多元的环境,让我们可以尽情地发挥天马行空的想象力,开发自己的潜能。”

Journalist: Li Zhen  
Correspondents: Zhou Wanjun,  
Han Shiyang, Wang Zimeng  
Translator: Pan Wenjie  
Proofreaders: Zhang Dongjing,  
Huang Dawang, Jason Mowbray