

## OI 分析仪器公司的总有机碳分析仪将飞往太空

2008 年 11 月 14 日

来自美国当地媒体的消息，OI 分析仪器公司设计制造的新一代总有机碳分析仪将于今天（美国当地时间，11 月 14 日）随奋进号航天飞机被运往国际空间站，执行检测任务。

这个项目的负责人，OI 分析仪器公司的 Gary Erickson 讲到，利用这项目技术，可以确保把来自任何水源的水，包括浓缩液、废水甚至尿液再生成饮用水的安全性。一旦水经过处理并且纯化后，宇航员可以利用这台分析仪检测水中的总有机碳的浓度，以确保其对于宇航员是安全的。在这套系统投入之前，国际空间站的水供给是有限的，并且限时提供。

公司在 2006 年开始为空间站开发一套特制的分析仪，这个历时一年多的总计 180 万美元项目终于圆满完成了。

### 背景资料：

7 名宇航员将于 14 日随“奋进”号航天飞机升空，前往国际空间站，任务是将国际空间站打造得更像一个温馨的家。“奋进”号的货舱内装了 2 个睡眠舱(sleeping chamber)、第二个洗手间和一个水净化系统，这个系统将帮助美国宇航局把空间站上的成员人数从原来的 3 名扩充到 6 名。空间站上的宇航员可以利用该系统把尿液和废水再生成饮用水。这次发射时间定在美国东部时区 14 日下午 7 时 55 分，发射地点是佛罗里达州肯尼迪太空中心。

<http://www.theeagle.com/business/111308-biz-briefs>

### Local firm's gear to help ISS crew with water safety

Patented technology developed in the Brazos Valley will be on board the space shuttle, which is scheduled to launch Friday.

Engineers from O.I. Corp. said they would watch with anticipation as a next-generation Total Organic Carbon Analyzer they developed is sent to the International Space Station, allowing it to be fully manned for the first time since its inception.

The \$1.8 million project took more than a year to complete.

Gary Erickson, engineering manager for O.I., said the implementation of the firm's technology would allow astronauts to safely drink reclaimed water from any number of sources, including condensation and urine. Once the water has been processed and purified, astronauts will use the analyzer to test organic carbon levels in the water to ensure that it is safe for human consumption, he said.

Previously, water supplies on the International Space Station were limited, and the space station could be only partially manned at any given time.

Officials said that O.I. began the project to develop a specialized analyzer for the space station in 2006 after being retained by Wyle Laboratories Inc., one of the nation's leading providers of specialized engineering and scientific services for the Department of Defense and NASA.

O.I. has been designing and manufacturing TOCAs for more than 37 years, and its products are used worldwide to serve a broad range of applications in the field of water analysis, company officials said.

They now are working to design and produce an online analyzer for the U.S. government using the technology developed for the Space Station project, according to a statement from the company.

The design team for the space station project was led by Gary Erickson. Team members include Noel Bauman, Corrine Bergee, Tim Cloud, Kevin Morris, Charles Neill, Michelle Ramotowski, Nate Rawls, Rich Simon, Armando Solar-Schultz and Karl Williams.

O.I. Corp., which does business as O.I. Analytical, designs, develops and manufactures analytical instruments that detect, measure, analyze and monitor chemicals in liquids, solids and gases. The company is headquartered in College Station and is traded on the NASDAQ stock exchange under the symbol O.I.CO.

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