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Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas 77058



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International Space Station

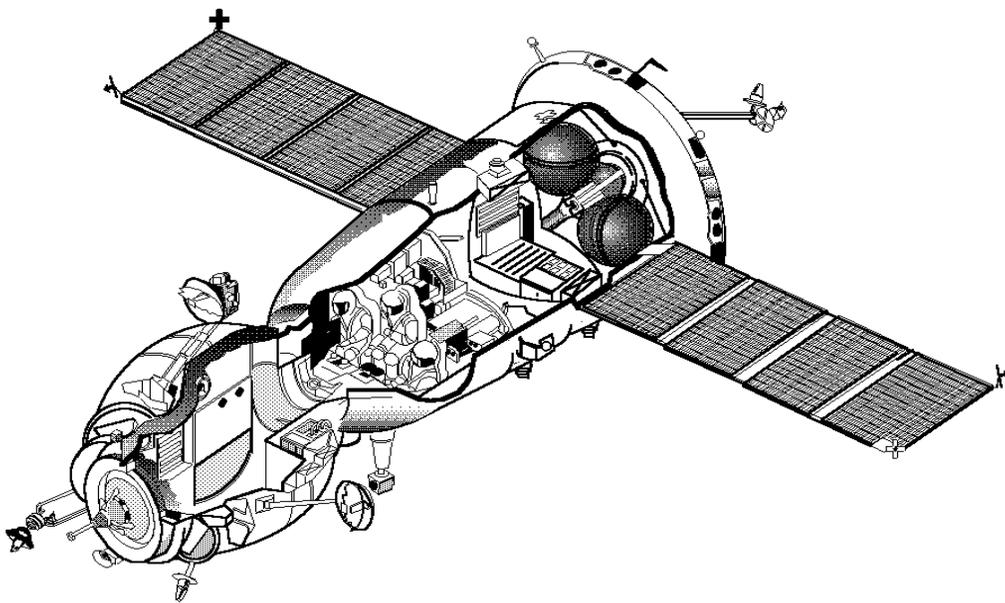
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Flight 2R: *First Crew On the International Space Station*

In March 2000, an international crew of three will begin living aboard the International Space Station, starting a permanent human presence aboard the outpost. The crew, designated the Expedition 1 crew, has been in training for the mission since late 1996 and includes International Space Station Commander Bill Shepherd, a U.S. astronaut; Soyuz Commander Yuri Gidzenko, a Russian cosmonaut; and Flight Engineer Sergei Krikalev, a Russian cosmonaut who also flew as a crew member on STS-88, the first Space Shuttle mission to assemble the station in December 1998.

The first crew will spend almost four months aboard the International Space Station. When they arrive, the station will consist of three modules: the Russian Service Module, which will serve as living quarters and onboard control center for the early station; the U.S.-funded and Russian-built Zarya control module, a module that provides supplementary power and propulsion functions; and the U.S.-built Unity node, a connecting module that provides the attachment points for future U.S. segments. The station also will have an early exterior truss and third mating adapter attached.

The crew's mission will be a flight test of the new station as they continue critical assembly activities from onboard. During their stay, three Space Shuttle assembly missions



The first International Space Station crew will launch on a Soyuz spacecraft in March 2000

will dock, expanding the station by delivering the first giant set of U.S. solar arrays and batteries, the U.S. Destiny Laboratory module and equipment to set up the lab carried in the Italian-built Leonardo logistics module.

The crew will be launched on a Russian Soyuz spacecraft from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakstan. They will return at the end of their mission aboard the Space Shuttle Atlantis on Shuttle mission STS-102 in June 2000, the mission that carries aloft the Leonardo logistics module. They will be relieved by a new crew of three that will be launched aboard Atlantis. The Soyuz spacecraft the first crew rides to orbit will remain docked with the station, providing an emergency return to Earth for crew members if needed. The Soyuz spacecraft attached to the station will be changed out with a fresh spacecraft about each six months to maintain the emergency crew return capability.

Shepherd, Gidzenko and Krikalev are training during alternating stays in both Star City, Russia, and in the U.S. All three are veteran space flyers.

Crew Biographies



William M. (Bill) Shepherd, 47, Capt., USN, will serve as the International Space Station Commander. Selected as an astronaut by NASA in 1984, Shepherd considers Babylon, N.Y., his hometown and will be making his fourth space flight. Shepherd served as deputy manager for the International Space Station Program from 1993 to 1996, prior to his assignment to command the first flight crew. His Space Shuttle flights include mission STS-27 in December 1988; STS-41 in October 1990; and STS-52 in October 1992. He has logged more than 440 hours in space.



Yuri Pavlovich Gidzenko, 35, Lt. Col., Air Force Russia, will serve as the Soyuz Commander. Gidzenko began his training as a Russian cosmonaut in 1989. He was born in the village of Elanets, Elanetsky district, Nikolayev region, Russia, and will be making his second space flight. Gidzenko commanded the Euromir-95 mission aboard the Mir Space Station from September 1995 to February 1996. He has logged more than 180 days in space.



Sergei Konstantinovich Krikalev, 38, will serve as the Flight Engineer. Selected as a Russian cosmonaut in 1985, Krikalev was born in Leningrad (renamed St. Petersburg), Russia, and he will be making his fifth space flight. He flew as flight engineer on the second Soviet-French science mission on the Mir Space Station from November 1988 to April 1989. He next flew on the ninth Mir mission from May 1991 to March 1992. In February 1994, Krikalev was the first cosmonaut to fly on the Space Shuttle on mission STS-60, the first joint U.S.-Russian shuttle flight. He next flew on Space Shuttle mission STS-88 in December 1998, the first International Space Station assembly mission. He has logged more than 1 year and three months in space, including seven spacewalks.