

EXPEDITION 26 A NEW DECADE ABOARD ISS

When the 26th expedition to the International Space Station arrived, a second decade of human presence, work and research got underway aboard the orbiting laboratory. Since the first expedition crew took up residence on the Station in November 2000, more than 200 explorers have visited the orbiting complex, 15 countries have contributed support, modules and in-orbit hardware, and more than 600 experiments have been conducted.

Expedition 26 Commander and NASA Astronaut Scott Kelly, along with Flight Engineers Alexander Kaleri and Oleg Skripochka of Russia launched to the Space Station on October 7, 2010, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan aboard the Russian Soyuz TMA-01M spacecraft.

The trio was joined by Russian Cosmonaut Dmitry Kondratyev, NASA Astronaut Catherine

Coleman and European Space Agency Astronaut Páolo Néspoli of Italy following their launch aboard Soyuz TMA-20 from Baikonur on December 15, 2010. All three will serve as flight engineers during Expedition 26.

During a spacewalk in January 2011, Skripochka and Kondratyev plan to set up and connect rendezvous telemetry equipment, move and reinstall a video camera and collect a materials sample experiment. The experiment is a container that measures contamination and monitors changes in samples of materials from the outside surfaces of the Station's Russian segment.

During Expedition 26, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's H-II Transfer Vehicle, or HTV-2 will be launched to the Space Station. It will rendezvous to within a few meters of the Station and then be grappled by



The Sun reflects off the electricity-producing solar panels of the International Space Station as seen by the crew of the Space Shuttle Endeavour.

CREW PROFILE



Dmitry Kondratyev

**Dmitry Kondratyev, (Colonel, Russian Air Force)
Flight Engineer**

Born: May 25, 1969 in Irkutsk, Russia

Education: Graduated Kachinsk Air Force Pilot School in 1990 as a pilot-engineer. In 2000, he graduated from the Moscow State University for Economy, Statistics and Computer Science as an economist.

Experience: Selected as a cosmonaut in 1997, Expedition 26 will be his first trip into space.



Catherine Coleman

**Catherine Coleman, Ph.D.
Flight Engineer**

Born: December 14, 1960 in Charleston, South Carolina

Education: Received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1983 and a doctorate in polymer science and engineering from the University of Massachusetts in 1991.

Experience: Selected as an astronaut in 1992, she served as a mission specialist on STS-73 in 1995 and STS-93 in 1999.



Páolo Néspoli

**Páolo Néspoli
Flight Engineer**

Born: Born April 6, 1957 in Milan, Italy, but considers Verano Brianza, Italy to be his hometown.

Education: Received a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering in 1988 and a master's in aeronautics and astronautics in 1989 from the Polytechnic University of New York.

Experience: Selected as a European Space Agency astronaut in 1991, he served as a mission specialist on STS-120 in 2006.



Catherine Coleman is being submerged in the waters of NASA's Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory during training for a spacewalk outside the International Space Station.

the Canadarm 2 and berthed to the Harmony module. It is capable of delivering up to six tons of supplies including food and clothes.

Also scheduled for docking during Expedition 26 is ESA's Automated Transfer Vehicle (ATV-2) re-supply spacecraft scheduled to launch from Kourou, Guiana, in February 2011. Named Johannes Kepler after the German astronomer and mathematician, ATV-2 will deliver six tons of food, clothing, propellants, water and oxygen. Unlike the HTV, ESA's Kepler spacecraft will dock automatically to the aft port of the Zvezda module.

The Expedition 26 crew will spend approximately three months together before Scott Kelly hands over command of the Station to Kondratyev. Kelly, Kaleri and Skripochka will then undock their Soyuz TMA-01M spacecraft and head for a landing in Kazakhstan in mid-March 2011.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

United Space Alliance
Communications and Public Relations
M/C USH-100B
1150 Gemini Avenue
Houston, Texas 77058
www.unitedspacealliance.com



United Space Alliance
Communications and Public Relations
M/C USK-558
1102 John Glenn Boulevard
Titusville, Florida 32780