

# EXPEDITION 25

# R2 MAKES SEVEN

The International Space Station's Expedition 25 crew will continue research across a variety of fields during the two-month increment and welcome the crew of the Space Shuttle Discovery. The Shuttle will bring a seventh and permanent Space Station crew member – Robonaut 2 or R2 – the first human-like robot aboard the orbiting outpost.

Scheduled to be delivered during the STS-133 Discovery mission, the dexterous R2 robot not only looks like a human but also is designed to work like one. With human-like hands and arms, R2 is able to use the same tools station crew members use. In the future, the greatest benefits of humanoid robots in space may be as assistants or as stand-ins for astronauts during spacewalks in which tasks may be too difficult or dangerous for humans.

Expedition 25 Commander and NASA

Astronaut Douglas Wheelock, along with Flight Engineers Fyodor Yurchikhin of Russia and Shannon Walker of the United States launched to the Space Station on June 15, 2010, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan aboard the Russian Soyuz TMA-19 spacecraft.

The trio were joined by Russian Cosmonauts Alexander Kaleri and Oleg Skripochka, along with NASA Astronaut Scott Kelly following their launch aboard Soyuz TMA-01M from Baikonur on October 7, 2010. All three will serve as flight engineers during Expedition 25.

Targeted to liftoff in November, STS-133 will deliver the Express Logistics Carrier 4 with critical spare components to the International Space Station. The Permanent Multipurpose Module (PMM) will also be attached to the station. PMM is the modified Leonardo Multi-



## CREW PROFILE



Alexander Kaleri

### Alexander Kaleri Flight Engineer

**Born:** May 13, 1956, in Yurmala, Latvia

**Education:** Graduated from Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology in 1979.

**Experience:** Selected as a cosmonaut in 1984, Kaleri has logged 610 days in space. He was a member of crews working aboard the Space Station Mir in 1992, 1997 and 2000. In 2003 he spent 194 days aboard the ISS as a part of Expedition 8.



Scott Kelly

### Scott Kelly Flight Engineer

**Born:** February 21, 1964 in Orange, New Jersey

**Education:** Received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the State University of New York Maritime College in 1987 and a master's degree in aviation systems from the University of Tennessee in 1996.

**Experience:** Selected as an astronaut in 1996, he served as Pilot of STS-103 in 1999 and Commander of STS-118 in 2007.



Oleg Skripochka

### Oleg Skripochka Flight Engineer

**Born:** Born on December 24, 1969 in Nevinnomyssk, Stavropol region.

**Education:** He completed studies at the Bauman Moscow State Technical University, graduating in 1993 with a diploma of mechanical engineer in rocket construction.

**Experience:** Selected as a cosmonaut in 1997, Expedition 25 will be his first trip into space.



*The habitable portion of the International Space Station was photographed by the crew of the Space Shuttle Atlantis at the conclusion of the STS-132 mission in May of 2010.*

purpose Logistics Module packed with critical spare parts, supplies and Robonaut 2.

The ISS, now a fully-functional laboratory, will host a variety of research including those focused on the development of cancer-fighting pharmaceuticals and the refinement of microgravity processes for uniform crystal growth.

In November 2010 Expedition 26 will begin when Wheelock, Walker and Yurchikhin depart the station. At that time Kelly will assume the role as commander. He, Kaleri and Skripochka will maintain the station until the Soyuz TMA-20 crew arrives a few weeks later.



*STS-133 Mission Specialist Michael Barratt shakes hands with Robonaut 2. R2 will allow engineers to learn how humanoid robots fare in microgravity.*

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