

EXPEDITION 23 CONTINUING ISS RESEARCH

The Expedition 23 crew will continue research aboard the International Space Station while welcoming two Space Shuttle crews bringing new equipment being added to the orbiting outpost.

Russian Cosmonaut and Expedition 23 Commander Oleg Kotov along with American Flight Engineers Timothy (T.J.) Creamer and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Astronaut Soichi Noguchi launched to the Space Station on Dec. 20, 2009, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan aboard the Russian Soyuz TMA-17 spacecraft.

Traffic begins to pick up at the Space Station with the arrival of Soyuz TMA-18 on April 4, 2010. Russian Cosmonauts Alexander Skvortsov and Mikhail Kornienko, as well as U.S. Astronaut Tracy Caldwell Dyson launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome two days earlier.

During three months together, the six-member

Expedition 23 crew will be visited by two Shuttle missions.

During April the STS-131 crew of the Shuttle Discovery delivered a Multi-Purpose Logistics Module filled with science experiment racks that was transferred to laboratories on the ISS. Also on board was the Lightweight Multi-Purpose Equipment Support Structure Carrier.

In May the crew of Atlantis will bring the Integrated Cargo Carrier and the Russian Mini Research Module 1 during STS-132. MRM 1 is a pressurized component with workplaces for scientific equipment. It will also be used for cargo storage and it has a docking port for the ISS.

The research conducted during Expedition 23 will take advantage of the microgravity conditions 220 miles above the Earth's surface across a wide variety of fields, including human life sciences, biological science, human physiology, physical and



The Space Station as seen after the undocking of the Shuttle Endeavour on STS-130.



Tracy Caldwell Dyson is preparing to be lowered into the waters of the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory near the Johnson Space Center. The simulation is training for work outside the Space Station.

materials science and Earth and space science.

Nearly 150 experiments are currently underway on the Station, and more than 400 studies have been conducted over the past nine years. These experiments are already leading to advances in the fight against food poisoning, new methods for delivering medicine to cancer cells and the development of more capable engines and materials for use on Earth and in space.

Kotov will hand over command of the Station to Skvortsov, and then he, Creamer and Noguchi will depart in their Soyuz, with landing in Kazakhstan scheduled for June 2, 2010. The next expedition crew members are scheduled to arrive at the Station later that month.

CREW PROFILE



Alexander Skvortsov

**Alexander Skvortsov (Colonel, Russian Air Force)
Flight Engineer & Soyuz Commander**

Born: May 6, 1966 in Schelkovo, Moscow Region.

Education: Graduated from the Stavropol Air Force Pilot and Navigator School as a pilot-engineer in 1987 and from the Military Red Banner Air Defense Academy in 1997

Experience: Selected as a cosmonaut in 1999, Expedition 23 will be his first space flight.



Tracy Caldwell
Dyson

**Tracy Caldwell Dyson, Ph.D.
Flight Engineer**

Born: August 14, 1969 in Arcadia, California.

Education: Received a bachelors degree in Chemistry from the California State University at Fullerton in 1993 and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of California at Davis in 1997.

Experience: Selected as an astronaut in 1998, Caldwell-Dyson was a mission specialist on STS-118 in August 2007.



Mikhail Kornienko

**Mikhail Kornienko
Flight Engineer**

Born: April 15, 1960 in Syzran, Kuibyshev region, Russia.

Education: From 1981-1987 studied at the Moscow Aviation Institute

Experience: Selected as a cosmonaut in 1991, Expedition 23 is his first trip into space.



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