

EXPEDITION 18

GEARING UP FOR SIX

With assembly of the International Space Station on schedule for completion by 2010, Expedition 18 will play a critical role in testing equipment to support expansion of the orbiting laboratory's crew from three to six people next spring. The hardware delivered by the next two Space Shuttle missions will include new systems to support the expansion and the final set of U.S. solar arrays.

Expedition 18 Commander Michael Fincke and Flight Engineer Yury Lonchakov were launched aboard the Soyuz TMA-13 spacecraft from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on October 12. Richard Garriott, an American computer game developer and the son of veteran NASA astronaut Owen Garriott, accompanied the two under a commercial agreement with the Russian Federal Space Agency.

Two days after launch, the Soyuz docked to the Space Station joining Expedition 17 Commander Sergei Volkov and Oleg Kononenko of Russia, along with American Astronaut Gregory Chamitoff. Garriott spent nine days on the ISS, returning to Earth aboard the Soyuz TMA-12 on October 24 with Volkov and Kononenko who had been aboard the station since April 10, 2008.

The first milestone in Expedition 18's busy schedule will be the arrival of the Shuttle Endeavour's STS-126 mission delivering new hardware and supplies to the Space Station which will help enable crew expansion. The hardware will include a resistant



The International Space Station is seen from Space Shuttle Discovery during the STS-124 mission on June 11, 2008.

exercise machine, a water regeneration system, additional sleeping quarters and an additional oxygen generation system. Additionally, Endeavour crewmember Sandra Magnus will replace Chamitoff as an Expedition 18 flight engineer.

Fincke and Lonchakov will see another partial crew rotation later in their mission. Magnus will be replaced by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Koichi Wakata in February 2009 on STS-119. That mission will deliver the final set of U.S. solar arrays. Wakata will become the first Japanese long-duration crew member on the station.

Taking advantage of the U. S. Destiny laboratory and the new Columbus and Kibo science modules, the Expedition 18 crew will work with experiments across a wide variety of fields, including human life sciences, physical sciences and Earth observation, as well as education and technology demonstrations.



Fincke and Lonchakov's stay aboard the station is expected to last approximately six months, at which time the Expedition 19 crew replaces them in late March of 2009. Wakata will return to Earth on the STS-127 mission later in the spring.

Expedition 18 Commander Mike Fincke, right, and Flight Engineer Yury Lonchakov participate in a training session in an ISS mock-up/trainer at NASA's Johnson Space Center.

CREW PROFILE



Mike Fincke

Mike Fincke (Colonel, U.S. Air Force)
Expedition 18 Commander

Born: March 14, 1967, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but considers Emsworth, Pennsylvania to be his hometown.

Education: Graduated Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1989 and earned a masters degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Stanford University in 1990 and a masters in Planetary Geology from the University of Houston in 2001.

Experience: Selected as an astronaut in 1996, Fincke was a flight engineer aboard Expedition 9 in 2004.



Yury Lonchakov

Yury Lonchakov (Col. Russian Air force)
Expedition 18 Flight Engineer and Soyuz Commander

Born: March 4, 1965, Balkhash, Dzhezkazkansk Region
Education: Graduated with a degree of Pilot-Engineer from Orenburg Air Force Pilot School, 1986, and earned a Pilot-Engineer-Researcher degree from the Zhukovski Air Force Academy in 1998.

Experience: Selected as a cosmonaut in 1997 and has flown into space twice previously on STS-100 in 2001 and Soyuz TMA-1 in 2002.

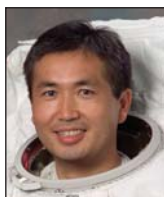


Sandra Magnus

Sandra Magnus (Ph. D.)
Expedition 18 Flight Engineer

Born: October 30, 1964, in Belleville, Illinois
Education: Earned a bachelors degree in Physics and a masters degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla in 1986 and 1990 respectively. She went on to earn a doctorate in Material Science and Engineering from Georgia Tech in 1996.

Experience: Selected as an astronaut in 1996, Magnus was a member of the STS-112 crew in 2002.



Koichi Wakata

Koichi Wakata (Ph.D.)
Expedition 18 Flight Engineer

Born: August 1, 1963, in Saitama, Japan
Education: Earned a bachelors degree in Aeronautical Engineering and a masters in Applied Mathematics and a doctorate in Aerospace Engineering from Kyushu University in 1987, 1989 and 2004 respectively.

Experience: Selected as an astronaut in 1992, he has served as a mission specialist on STS-72 in 1996 and STS-92 in 2000.

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