Two space flight veterans, Russian Cosmonaut Pavel Vinogradov and U.S. Astronaut Jeffrey Williams, make up the 13th Expedition to the International Space Station since continuous human presence began on the orbiting laboratory in November 2000. They are scheduled to welcome the crew of the Space Shuttle Discovery to their home in orbit, during which they will resume three-person expedition crew operations.

Expedition 13 lifted off aboard Soyuz TMA-8 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on March 29, 2006. Traveling with Vinogradov and Williams was Brazilian Astronaut Marcos Pontes who spent eight days on the station under a contract with Roscosmos, the Russian Federal Space Agency.

After ten days in space, Pontes returned to Earth on the Expedition 12's Soyuz with McArthur and Tokarev.

The six-month stay by ISS and Soyuz Commander Vinogradov, along with ISS Science Officer Williams' will focus on station assembly preparations, maintenance and science in microgravity. The 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.

Many space station experiments are designed to gather information about the effects of long-duration space flight on the human body in preparation for future exploration missions to the moon or Mars.

Plans call for Vinogradov and Williams to be joined during Expedition 13 by European Space Agency Astronaut Thomas Reiter of Germany. He is slated to arrive at the station with the crew of the Space Shuttle Discovery on the STS-121. Reiter's arrival will mark the first time a long-duration crew has three people working on board since May 2003.

In addition to delivering Reiter to the ISS, the crew of Discovery will deliver more supplies and cargo for future station expansion.

This view of the International Space Station was taken by an STS-114 crewmember onboard Discovery following the undocking of the two spacecraft in August 2005.

Reiter will also be the first non-American or non-Russian long-duration crewmember on the Station. He will fly under a commercial agreement between ESA and Roscosmos.

The following Shuttle mission, STS-115, is scheduled during Expedition 13 and will resume the major assembly of the station. Station assembly work will include preparation for expansion of the ISS main truss and for installation of additional solar arrays.

Vinogradov, Williams and Reiter's tour of duty will end in September 2006 when they will be replaced by the Expedition 14 crew.

CREW PROFILE

Pavel Vinogradov

**Pavel Vinogradov
Expedition 13 & Soyuz Commander**
Born: August 31, 1953, in Magadan, Russia
Education: Graduated from the Moscow Aviation Institute in 1977 with a specialization in Booster Design
Experience: Selected as a cosmonaut in 1992, Vinogradov is making his second long-duration space flight, having worked aboard the Russian space station Mir for 198 days in 1997.

Jeffrey Williams

**Jeffrey Williams (Col. U.S. Army)
Expedition 13 Flight Engineer & ISS Science Officer**
Born: January 18, 1958 in Superior, Wisconsin, but considers Winter, Wisconsin to be his hometown
Education: Graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1980 with a degree in Applied Science and Engineering and earned a masters degree in Aerospace Engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in 1987
Experience: Selected as an astronaut in 1996, Williams is making his second space flight. He was a mission specialist on the third ISS construction flight, STS-101, in 2000.

Pavel Vinogradov, left, and Jeffrey Williams participate in an operations training session in an ISS mockup/trainer at the Johnson Space Center.

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