EXPEDITION 14 BUILDING THE FUTURE IN SPACE

U.S. Astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria and Russian Cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin, two veterans of missions aboard the International Space Station, are participating in the 14th Expedition to the Earth orbiting laboratory. During their stay, they will welcome two Space Shuttle crews to their home in orbit, while continuing station assembly.

Expedition 14 lifted off aboard Soyuz TMA-9 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on September 18, 2006. Traveling with them was space flight participant Anousheh Ansari, an American businesswoman who visited the station under a contract with the Russian Federal Space Agency.

Lopez-Alegria and Tyurin spent more than a week reviewing ISS activities with their predecessors, the Expedition 13 crew of Pavel Vinogradov, Jeffrey Williams and Thomas Reiter.

After ten days in space, Ansari returned to Earth on the Expedition 13's Soyuz with Vinogradov and Williams.

Plans call for Lopez-Alegria and Tyurin to be joined in late 2006 by NASA astronaut and Navy Cmdr. Sunita Williams. She will make her first flight into space aboard the Shuttle Discovery on the STS-116 mission to replace European Space Agency Astronaut Reiter as the third expedition crewmember.

Sunita Williams will remain in orbit with the Expedition 15 crew that will arrive in March 2007.

During STS-116, the Shuttle and ISS crews will conduct a major reconfiguration of the station's electrical system.

CREW PROFILE

Michael Lopez-Alegria

Michael Lopez-Alegria
(Capt. U.S. Navy)
Expedition 14 Commander
Born: Born May 30, 1958, in Madrid, Spain, and grew up in Mission Viejo, California
Education: Earned a bachelors degree in Systems Engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1980 and a masters in Aeronautical Engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in 1988.
Experience: Selected as an astronaut in 1992, Lopez-Alegria is making his fourth space flight and third trip to the International Space Station.

Mikhail Tyurin

Mikhail Tyurin
Expedition 14 Soyuz Commander & Flight Engineer
Born: March 2, 1960, in Kolomna, Russia
Education: Graduated from the Moscow Aviation Institute in 1984 with a degree in Engineering and a specialization in creating mathematical models related to mechanical flight.
Experience: Selected as a cosmonaut in 1993, Tyurin worked aboard the International Space Station for 125 days as a member of the Expedition-3 in 2001.

Sunita Williams

Sunita Williams (Cmdr. U.S. Navy)
Expedition 14 Flight Engineer
Born: Born Sept. 19, 1965 in Euclid, Ohio, but considers Needham, Mass. her hometown
Education: Earned a bachelors degree in Physical Science from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1987 and a masters in Engineering Management from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1995
Experience: Selected as an astronaut in June 1998, this will be Williams' first trip into space.

The crew of the Shuttle Atlantis photographed the International Space Station with it's new solar arrays as it orbits the Earth during the STS-115 mission.

The work will activate a new set of solar arrays that were installed on STS-115, bringing their power online.

Scheduled to arrive late in the Expedition 14 mission, the STS-117 crew will install the S3/S4 (Starboard 3 and 4) truss components, a segment of the girder-like truss that will include a third set of large solar arrays, batteries and electrical equipment. The growing power capability on the station will set the stage for the future addition of new science laboratories from Europe and Japan.

During their six-month stay, Expedition 14 also will focus on experiments across a wide variety of fields including human life sciences, physical sciences and Earth observation as well as education and technology demonstrations.

Lopez-Alegria and Tyurin's tour of duty will end in March 2007 when the Expedition 15 crew will replace them. Sunita Williams will return to Earth on the Shuttle Endeavour on the STS-118 mission in spring 2007.

Expedition 14 Commander Michael Lopez-Alegria (top), and Flight Engineer Mikhail Tyurin participate in a training session in a Soyuz spacecraft trainer in Star City, Russia

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