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## **INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RUSSIAN PARTICIPATION DISCUSSED**

The heads of the space agencies involved in the International Space Station, the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), the European Space Agency (ESA), the National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA), the Russian Space Agency (RSA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) met in Washington, D.C. on April 5, 1994. The joint statement, summarizing the results of the meeting, is being issued today by all the participants.

### **Joint Statement -- Space Station Heads of Agencies Meeting**

The heads of the space agencies involved in the International Space Station -- the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), the European Space Agency (ESA), the National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA), the Russian Space Agency (RSA) and the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) -- met in Washington, D.C., on April 5, 1994. This was the first meeting of this group since Russia accepted the collective invitation to join the International Space Station partnership in December 1993. The heads of agencies evaluated positively the accomplishments since December 1993 to define the International Space Station Program and to bring Russia officially into the program.

The heads of agencies discussed the outcome of the recently completed Space Station System Design Review (SDR). CSA, ESA and NASDA noted the remarkable progress made to accommodate Russia as a new partner and to satisfy the interests of all the partners in the new program structure, and they commended NASA for its efforts to improve program efficiency and to clarify the potential for additional partner contributions. The heads of agencies agreed that the station configuration at SDR possesses increased robustness, has more capabilities and will become available to users at an earlier date. They noted the importance of defining in more detail the utilization strategy for the Space Station, particularly with regard to the Russian contribution. They also noted significant progress towards achieving a more beneficial distribution of operations roles among the partners.

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The heads of agencies acknowledged the major advances made collectively over the past three months in bringing Russia into the International Space Station Program. Activities at the government and agency levels have paved the way for negotiation of the agreements necessary to formalize Russia's inclusion in the program. All expressed support for proceeding with these negotiations, scheduled to start in late April, in an expeditious manner. The heads of agencies also noted the importance of concluding, in a timely manner, the interim agreement between NASA and RSA to facilitate Russia's early participation in program management mechanisms. They share the determination that the International Space Station Program will be accomplished without further delay.

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