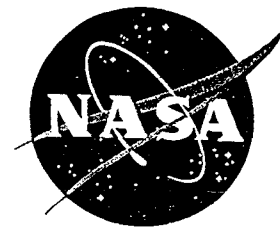


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~~NASA AND RUSSIAN SPACE AGENCY SIGN SPACE STATION INTERIM AGREEMENT AND \$400 MILLION CONTRACT~~

NASA and the Russian Space Agency (RSA) signed two significant documents today which put the United States and Russian space cooperation on a firm basis and underpin Russian participation in the International Space Station program.

NASA and RSA signed an "Interim Agreement for the Conduct of Activities Leading to Russian Partnership in Permanently Manned Civil Space Station" that provides for initial Russian participation in the International Space Station program. The Interim Agreement will govern Russian participation until an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and a NASA-RSA Memorandum of Understanding can be concluded.

"This interim agreement is an essential step toward Russia's full participation in the International Space Station project. Just as the race to the moon defined the Cold War competition between the superpowers, the Space Station will define a new era of peace and cooperation for the world," said Daniel S. Goldin, NASA Administrator.

NASA and RSA also signed a separate \$400 million contract for Russian space hardware, services and data. Under this contract, NASA will purchase hardware and services from RSA and its subcontractors for approximately \$100 million per year through 1997 in support of a joint program involving the U.S. Space Shuttle and the Russian Mir Space Station. The contract also covers early International Space Station activities.

The Interim Agreement and \$400 million contract were separately signed by NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin and RSA Director General Yuri Koptev at a formal signing ceremony in Washington D.C. at the conclusion of the U.S.-Russian Joint Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation meeting presided over by Vice President Gore and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin.

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NASA/RSA Interim Agreement

The Interim Agreement establishes bilateral management mechanisms which are fully consistent with existing management mechanisms utilized by the International Space Station partners. It also provides for Russian participation in the existing multinational Space Station management mechanisms.

The agreement establishes, among other things, a NASA/RSA Program Coordination Committee which will review design and development activities during this initial cooperation. It also provides for RSA's participation on the Space Station Control Board, along with the other partners, which controls the Space Station requirements, configuration, and interfaces through the completion of assembly and initial operational verification. RSA also will be included in the Multilateral Coordination Board which ensures coordination of the operation and utilization activities of the Space Station.

The agreement provides for the establishment of Space Station technical liaison offices in Moscow and Houston for purposes of facilitating the working relationships between NASA and RSA.

Multilateral negotiations involving Russia and other Space Station partners on a protocol amending the Space Station Intergovernmental Agreement are currently underway. Negotiations on the NASA-RSA Memorandum of Understanding will begin later this summer.

NASA/RSA \$400 Million Contract

Activities included in this Contract expand on an ongoing cooperative program under the Human Space Flight Agreement. That agreement, concluded in 1992, provides for a U.S. astronaut flight on Mir for three months and a Space Shuttle to dock with Mir in 1995. Key elements of the \$400 million Contract include:

- o U.S. astronauts will spend up to 21 additional months on board the Russian Mir station, giving a new generation of American astronauts and scientists their first experience with long-duration space flight.
- o The U.S. Space Shuttle will dock as many as nine additional times with the Mir station, delivering astronauts and research instruments. NASA will gain fundamental experience in joint operations: risk reduction, command and control, docking the Shuttle with large structures in space, performing technology experiments, and executing a joint research program.

- o The implementation of a joint research program onboard Mir, including astronauts and cosmonauts and U.S. and Russian experiments. The Russian Spektr and Priroda research modules will be extensively used.
 - o The Russians will provide flight-proven equipment, including several docking mechanisms for use with Mir and later with the International Space Station.
 - o Joint development of Solar Thermal Dynamics, a newer and more efficient way to generate electrical power in space.
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- o Joint technology demonstrations of systems that may be used on the International Space Station.
 - o Demonstrations of joint operations and activities, such as Extravehicular Activity (EVA).
 - o Up to \$20 million to support Russian scientists engaged in joint scientific and research programs to support science, technology and engineering on board the Mir Space Station.
 - o Initial development funding for the FGB module that NASA will purchase for use on the International Space Station.