

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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JOINT STATEMENT ON
COOPERATION IN SPACE

The United States and the Russian Federation have agreed on steps to broaden cooperation in the use and exploration of outer space:

- Space Agreement: A new space agreement has been signed today that puts space cooperation between the two countries on a new footing, reflecting their new relationship.
 - The new agreement provides a broad framework for NASA and the Russian Space Agency to map out new projects in a full range of fields: space science, space exploration, space applications and the use of space technology.
 - Cooperation may include human and robotic space flight projects, ground-based operations and experiments and other important activities, such as monitoring the global environment from space, MIR Space Station and Space Shuttle missions involving the participation of U.S. astronauts and Russian cosmonauts, safety of spaceflight activities, and space biology and medicine.
 - Pursuant to the agreement, the two governments will give consideration to the following:
 - o flights of Russian cosmonauts aboard a Space Shuttle mission (STS 60), and U.S. astronauts aboard the MIR Space Station in 1993; and
 - o a rendezvous docking mission between the MIR and the Space Shuttle in 1994 or 1995.
 - An important part of the agreement involves annual subcabinet consultations led at the Under Secretary of State/Deputy Foreign Minister level, a new mechanism for high level government review of the bilateral civil space relationship between the two countries.
- Joint Study of Space Technology: The two governments are also announcing detailed technical studies of the possible use of space technology.
 - NASA is awarding a contract to the Russian firm NPO Energyia; the principal area being examined is the Russian Soyuz-TM spacecraft as an interim crew return vehicle for Space Station Freedom.

- Other important areas to be studied are the suitability of the Russian developed Automated Rendezvous and Docking System in support of NASA spaceflight activities, the use of the MIR Space Station for long-term medical experiments, and other applications by NASA of Russian hardware.
- Space Commerce: Both governments also agreed on steps to encourage private companies to expand their search for new commercial space business.
 - The United States has accepted an invitation from the Russian Federation for American businessmen to visit Russia. The Department of Commerce will lead a delegation of U.S. aerospace firms to Russia in the near future on a space technology assessment mission.
 - The Russian Federation has accepted an invitation from the United States to send a delegation of business leaders to the United States to meet with their counterparts in the American aerospace private sector.
- Space Launch: Reflecting its support for economic reform in Russia, the United States has decided to consider favorably a decision expected by the INMARSAT Organization in July 1992 to launch one of the INMARSAT 3 satellites from Russia.
 - The INMARSAT 3 satellite is manufactured primarily in the United States. If approved by INMARSAT, this would mark the first time that a U.S. manufactured commercial satellite would be launched from Russia.
 - The United States and Russia have agreed to negotiate a bilateral agreement on technology safeguards for the INMARSAT 3 satellite to enable issuance of a U.S. export license.
 - The United States and the Russian Federation support the application of market principles to international competition in the provision of launch services, including avoidance of unfair trade practices.
 - Recognizing Russia's current transition to a market economy, and in order to allow consideration of future proposals involving Russian launch of U.S. satellites, the Russian Federation and the United States have agreed to enter into international negotiations on an expeditious basis to develop international guidelines concerning competition in the launch of commercial satellites.
 - In the case of INMARSAT, the Russian Federation has also assured the United States that the terms and conditions of the Russian proposal, including pricing, are consistent with those that would normally be offered in the international market.
