

# PRESS RELEASE

## Background information

### International Space Station (ISS)

Men and women who lived in hostile blocs during the Cold War now work and live together as a matter of course in the smallest of spaces: 400 kilometers above the earth, in the International Space Station (ISS).

The ISS is regarded as the largest technology project of all time and is a joint venture between NASA in the USA, the Russian space agency Roskosmos, the European Space Agency ESA and the space agencies of Canada and Japan. The success of this "outpost of humanity" in space proves that peaceful international cooperation between partners from different cultures is possible.

In 1993, Russia and the USA signed an agreement on ten shuttle flights to the Russian Mir space station and on long-term stays for a number of US astronauts. Under President Clinton, the project for a large space station was relaunched together with Russia - Russia contributed the plans for the planned Mir-2 station.

The ISS has been permanently manned since November 2000. The first twelve expeditions consisted exclusively of Russian and US space travelers. In July 2006, the German Thomas Reiter became the first ESA space traveler to be brought to the ISS for a long-term stay.

In January 2013, US President Obama signed a law extending cooperation with Russia in space until 2020, ensuring that the formerly hostile superpowers will continue to work closely together as partners in the truest sense of the word.