

SOYUZ-TM9 DOCKED WITH MIR:

On 13 Febr. 1990 at 063740UTC S-TM9 docked to the Kvant-1 (Module-E) aft dockin port. The approach and docking were very successful. (Recently the used approach system Kurs exposed failures, for instance during approaches of S-TM8 and Module-D). This time the docking took place a few minutes ahead of schedule. This was during orbit 22875 when MIR still out of our range. In the pass on th next orbit 22876, 0804-0812UTC, could be heard how the cosmonauts opened the hatches between the Kvant-1 and S-TM9 and welcomed each other. Just like earlie dockings they had to wait with the opening of the hatch until a stable TV-link was established. To open the hatch the new arrived crew had to help the MIR crew. Soon followed short speeches of welcome and congratulations to TsUP for the perfect docking operation. On the pass in orb. 22877, 0938UTC, the cosmonauts were preserving the new arrived spaceship S-TM9.

CALLSIGNS: The new crew have the c/s Rodniki, so Solovyov is Rodnik-1, Balandin Rodnik-2. Solovyov already used this c/s during his flight to MIR in june 1988 (resp. S-TM5 and S-TM4, with the Bulgarian Aleksandrov)

PLANS:

1. Viktorenko en Serebrov will return on 19 Febr. 90 with Soyuz-TM8.
2. Possibly soon thereafter (20 or 21 Febr.) the redocking of Soyuz-TM9 during 20 minutes lasting autonomous flight of Solovyov and Balandin. (From aft to forward axial P.Kh. O. port.)
3. Launch of Kvant-3 (Module-T) late March '90; docking early April '90.

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