

TRANSFER SOYUZ-TM9 FROM KVANT-1 AFT TO FORWARD PORT TRANSITION SECTION:

This operation took place on 21 Febr. 1990 abt 0400UTC. The MIR complex passed its orb. 22998, but reached only 1 degree elevation for a few minutes in the East. Between 0356 and 0359UTC Solovyov reported the movements of its ship, Soyuz-TM9, already approaching the forward docking port. Traffic was on 121.7 mc. So Solovyov and Balandin flew autonomously for appr. 20 minutes. No particulars about the operation: did they fly around or just waited for the complex to make a turn of 180 degrees. During the next pass (orb. 22999, 0528UTC) the cosmonauts were again on board of MIR and communicated via 143.6 mc. They "conserved" the S-TM9 (switching off systems, locking hatches, check pressures, a.s.o.).

So the Kvant-1 (Module-E) docking port is free now to receive the next freighter, Progress-M3.

EXPECTED LAUNCH DATE OF PROGRESS-M3:

This launch can be expected in the early morning hours of 27 Febr. 1990, rendez-vous with MIR appr. 49 hours later so in the early morning of 1 March 1990. (Stated by cosmonaut during traffic on 22 Febr. 1990, orb. 23017, 0917L

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