

PROGRESS-M4 UNDOCKED AND DECAYED.

The freighter Progress-M4 undocked from MIR on 17 Sept. 1990 at 1243UTC (time might be wrong) for an autonomous flight until 20 Sept. 1990. During this autonomous flight Pr-M4 has been used for an experiment with "plasm formations". For this experiment the cosmonauts installed a device on the docking system of Pr-M4.

THE AUTONOMOUS FLIGHT:

PR-M4 stayed in the neighbourhood of MIR and the transmissions of Pr-M4 could be heard during all MIR passes. As usual Pr-M4 transmitted TLM on 166.140 mc and a carrier on 922.755 mc. Sometimes the cosmonauts reported about the visual observation of the freighter.

DECAY PROGRESS-M4:

Retrofire took place on 20 Sept. 1990 at abt. noon. There has been reported a time: 1103UTC. Possibly this time is not correct. It might be at 1203UTC. Retrofire on this moment would result in decay over the Pacific.

RETURN MODULE:

About an eventual test with that return system nothing has been reported. The cosmonauts did not speak about it.

OBSERVATION OF LUMINOUS OBJECTS:

On 18 Sept. 1990 during pass in orbit 26272, 1753-1803UTC the cosmonauts reported the observation of all kinds of luminous objects. The reported details: shape, numbers and navigation details. Sofar nothing about this has been published and the cosmonauts did not speak about it anymore.

PROGRESS-M5:

Possible launch on 27 Sept. at abt. 1030UTC for a 24hrs flight to MIR. So arrival on 29 Sept. 1990 at abt. 1230UTC. (The radiotraffic in which approach details can be heard will be during pass in orbit 26440, between 1218 and 1227UTC. There has been word that the return system this time will be tested or used.

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