

NEWSMIR.062 25 DECEMBER 1988.

PROGRESS-39 LAUNCHED FOR FLIGHT TO MIR.

As expected and referred to by the cosmonauts themselves this launch took place from Baykonur on 25 Dec. 1988 at 0412UTC.

If they keep to the normal schedule the freighter will need 2 days to have rendez-vous with the MIR-station. I expect the actual docking on 27 Dec. 1988 at appr. 0530UTC. Some minutes before we can expect radiotraffic as Pr-39 then will be within our reach on a very low and short pass. The cosmonauts will give navigational data regarding the final phase of the approach. (Fuel consumption, angles around X-, Y- and Z-axes, etc.) The cosmonauts will have to wait 2 months for the next freighter Progress-40, which will be launched in February 1989.

Greetings,

Chris van den Berg, NL-9165/A-UK3202.