

ISS crew makes room for their replacements

March 20 2006



The International Space Station crew Monday moved their Soyuz craft to another dock to make room for their replacements, due to arrive at the end of March.

Valery Tokarev of Russia and Bill McArthur of the United States undocked from the Zarya ("Dawn") module, circled the ISS and docked with the Zvezda ("Star") service module at approximately 10:23 a.m. Moscow time.

Mission control spokesman Valery Lyndin told Interfax, "The crew will move into the ISS and will assume their usual roles -- Bill McArthur will

be commander again, and Valery Tokarev, flight engineer."

The move was watched on a large screen at mission control headquarters in the town of Korolyov outside Moscow.

Russian Pavel Vinogradov and American Jeffrey Williams are scheduled to take off from the Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan on March 30, arriving at the ISS one day later.

They will be accompanied by Brazil's first astronaut, Marcos Pontes, who will spend about a week on the station before returning to Earth with Tokarev and McArthur.

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