

Russian spacecraft docks at orbiting station

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This image provided by NASA shows the view from an external camera aboard the Soyuz "TMA-18" capsule as it approaches the International Space Station early Sunday morning April 4, 2010. The docking port on the space station can be seen to the lower right of the cross hair. The Soyuz docked with the International Space Station at 1:25 a.m. EDT. (AP Photo/NASA)

(AP) -- A Russian space official says a Soyuz craft carrying an American and two Russian astronauts has docked successfully at the International Space Station.

Russia's Mission Control spokesman Valery Lyndin says the [spacecraft](#) hooked up with the orbiting station using an automatic docking system at 9:26 a.m. Moscow time (0526 GMT) Sunday.

The Soyuz was launched Friday from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

California native Tracy Caldwell Dyson and Russians Alexander Skvortsov and Mikhail Kornienko are joining the station's three current inhabitants.

Within three days, a seven-person crew aboard the Shuttle Discovery will dock at the station for a 13-day mission. During this period, four women will be in space at the same time, which is a first in history.

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