

Russian rocket ride: \$63 million per US astronaut

March 14 2011

(AP) -- The Russians are hiking the price of rocket rides again for U.S. astronauts - to nearly \$63 million.

The price goes up in 2014 for an astronaut to fly to and from the [International Space Station](#) on a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. NASA announced the news Monday.

The previous contract charged just under \$56 million apiece

The contract extension with the Russian Space Agency totals \$753 million. That covers trips for a dozen [astronauts](#) from 2014 through 2016.

NASA officials say inflation is the reason for the latest price increase.

[NASA](#) chief Charles Bolden says it's critical for U.S. companies to take over this transportation job. Space shuttles used to do that job. They're being retired this summer.

More information: NASA: <http://www.nasa.gov>

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Citation: Russian rocket ride: \$63 million per US astronaut (2011, March 14) retrieved 20 April

2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-03-russian-rocket-million-astronaut.html>

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