

Soyuz crew ready for heavy space station workload

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The trio of unseasoned astronauts that will fly to the International Space Station this week say they are undaunted by the initial busy workload of their six-month mission.

NASA astronaut Kevin Ford said Monday that tasks on the orbiting laboratory over the first week will include a [spacewalk](#) to repair station equipment and the departure of a commercial Dragon capsule.

Ford, who blasts off on a Soyuz craft from the Russian-leased Baikonur spacer center in Kazakhstan on Tuesday together with Russian colleagues Oleg Novitsky and Yevgeny Tarelkin, is the only member of the crew with [space travel](#) experience.

U.S. astronaut Sunita Williams, Russia's Yuri Malenchenko and Aki Hoshide of Japan, who have been at the ISS since mid-July, are scheduled to return to earth next month.

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