

Space station to move to avoid debris

October 3 2012

(AP)—The Russian space program's Mission Control Center says it will move the International Space Station into a different orbit to avoid possible collision with a fragment of debris.

Mission Control Center spokeswoman Nadyezhda Zavyalova said the Russian Zvezda module will fire booster rockets to carry out the operation Thursday at 07:22 a.m. Moscow time (0322 GMT).

The space station performs evasive maneuvers when the likelihood of a collision exceeds one in 10,000.

NASA estimates that more than 21,000 fragments of [orbital debris](#) larger than 10 centimeters (3.9 inches) are stuck in earth's orbit, and experts worry that orbiting junk is becoming a growing problem for the [space industry](#).

There are six astronauts—three Russians, two Americans and one from Japan—onboard the orbiting laboratory.

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Citation: Space station to move to avoid debris (2012, October 3) retrieved 14 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-10-space-station-debris.html>

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