

Space station in no need to move to avoid debris

October 3 2012

(AP)—Russia's Mission Control Center said Wednesday it dropped an earlier plan to move the International Space Station into a different orbit to avoid possible collision with space debris after additional calculations showed that there was no such threat.

Mission Control Center said in a statement carried by Russian news agencies that a fragment of [space debris](#) would fly by too far to pose any danger to the space outpost, so a plan to fire booster rockets to carry out the maneuver on Thursday at 07:22 a.m. Moscow time (0322 GMT) was canceled.

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 in no need to move to avoid debris (2012, October 3) retrieved 4 June

2024 from https://phys.org/news/2012-10-space-station-debris_1.html

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