

Bad weather postpones return of three astronauts

March 14 2013, by Vladimir Isachenkov



Crew of the International Space Station (ISS), (L-R) US astronaut Kevin Ford and Russian cosmonauts Oleg Novitskiy and Evgeny Tarelkin, pose for a photo at the Baikonur cosmodrome, on October 22, 2012 prior to their launch. The return to earth of the three crew was delayed Friday due to harsh conditions at the Kazakhstan landing site, the Russian space agency said

Bad weather is delaying the return of three astronauts from the

International Space Station.

The astronauts were scheduled to land in a [Soyuz capsule](#) in central Kazakhstan early Friday morning. But fog and freezing rain prevented Russian rescue helicopters from flying to the touchdown site.

NASA's Kevin Ford and Russians Oleg Novitsky and Yevgeny Tarelkin will stay at the space station for at least another day. They've been in space for nearly five months.

The astronauts had already climbed into their capsule and were waiting to close the hatch when Russian officials called off their departure at the last minute. Their return trip is now set for Saturday, when the weather is expected to be better.

Three other astronauts will remain at the space station.

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