

ISS prepares for a spacewalk and visitors

4 June 2007

International Space Station cosmonauts Fyodor Yurchikhin and Oleg Kotov spent much of Monday preparing for their second spacewalk in eight days.

The two Russians are to conduct the spacewalk Wednesday to install cable and additional debris panels, as well as deploying a scientific experiment. Yurchikhin and Kotov completed their first spacewalk last Wednesday.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration controllers in Houston said Space Shuttle Atlantis and the STS-117 crew are to lift off Friday and arrive at the space station Sunday. Atlantis will be delivering the station's S3/S4 truss segment, a new set of starboard solar arrays and batteries.

Shuttle crew member Clayton Anderson is to replace Expedition 15 Flight Engineer Suni Williams, who is to return to Earth aboard Atlantis.

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