

First woman space tourist fulfills dream

Anousheh Ansari, a U.S. citizen of Iranian origin, will become the world's first female space tourist when she blasts off aboard a Russian Soyuz rocket to the International Space Station. Business executive Ansari, 40, will be the world's fourth private spaceflyer

Ansari and two others will blast off from **Baikonur Cosmodrome**, in Kazakhstan. She will spend eight days aboard **ISS**, conducting experiments in medicine and microbiology

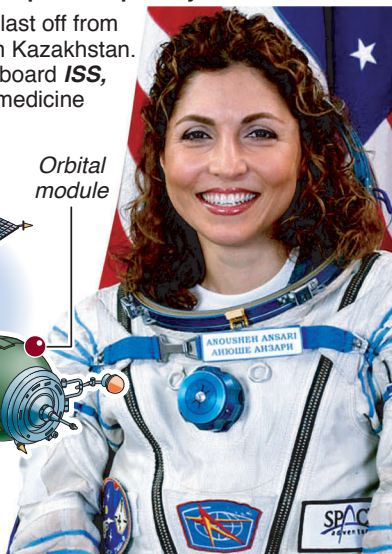
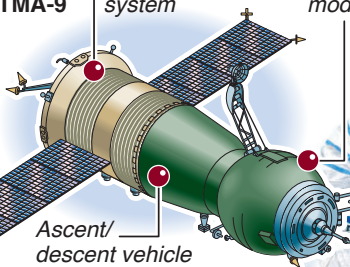
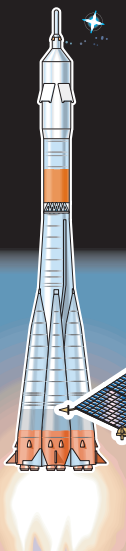
Soyuz TMA-9

Propulsion system

Orbital module

Ascent/descent vehicle

Space tourists reportedly pay around \$20 million each to make trip



PREVIOUS SPACE TOURISTS

1. Apr 2001:

Californian financier

Dennis Tito

2. Apr 2002:

South African internet millionaire

Mark Shuttleworth

3. Oct 2005:

American scientist and entrepreneur
Gregory Olsen



ANSARI'S ROCKETING CAREER

■ **1984:** Migrates to U.S. as teenager – later earns master's degree in electrical engineering

■ **1993:** Co-founds Texas-based company **Telecom Technologies**

■ **2004:** Ansari family helps fund \$10m **Ansari X-Prize** competition for first commercial, sub-orbital spaceflight – won by **SpaceShipOne**

■ Currently spearheading family venture, **Prodea**, to develop fleet of suborbital spacecraft for commercial use in partnership with Virginia-based **Space Adventures, Ltd.** and Russia's **Federal Space Agency**

■ Ansari holds reservation for first flights on commercial version of **SpaceShipOne**, being developed by **Virgin Galactic Spaceflight**

