

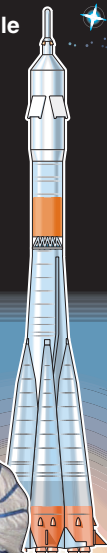
Billionaire programmer is fifth space tourist

U.S. billionaire *Charles Simonyi* will become the world's fifth space tourist when his Soyuz rocket blasts off from Baikonur, Kazakhstan, bound for the International Space Station. The Hungarian-born developer of *Microsoft's Word* and *Excel* applications is paying over \$20 million for his 13-day trip

Soyuz rocket

Launches TMA-10 capsule containing Simonyi and two fellow cosmonauts into orbit

Simonyi, 58, has spent six months training at Star City space centre outside Moscow



PREVIOUS SPACE TOURISTS



2001
U.S. financier and ex-NASA engineer
Dennis Tito



2002
South African internet millionaire
Mark Shuttleworth



2005
American scientist and entrepreneur
Gregory Olsen



2006
Iranian-born U.S. telecoms tycoon
Anousheh Ansari

TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

Hands-on practice

On life-support and equipment controls aboard mock-ups of Soyuz capsule and space station, plus learning to move and breathe in cumbersome **Sokol** space suit



Physical fitness

Monitored in pressure chamber, zero-g flight on Russian aircraft, and giant spinning centrifuge which simulates g-forces at launch and re-entry

Survival training

Includes simulated helicopter rescue after three days spent in winter forest conditions, and from water in case capsule ditches on return to Earth

