

Angkasawan heads for space station

A Malaysian "angkasawan", or space traveller, will be on board the next Russian Soyuz spacecraft bound for the International Space Station. The astronaut will be chosen from a final shortlist of two in the last hours before the launch

Soyuz R-7A Zemiorka launcher

Height: 49.3m

Third stage: Burns for 240 seconds. Journey into space takes just 9 mins

Second stage: Ignites at liftoff, burns for 290 seconds

First stage: Four boosters powered by liquid oxygen and kerosene. Boosters burn for 118 seconds and are then discarded

Soyuz TMA spacecraft

Propulsion system

Soyuz TMA spacecraft
Orbital module

International Space Station

Ascent/descent vehicle

Ascent/descent vehicle

Periscope for manual docking

Hatch

TV

Globe shows position over Earth

VHF radio



Dr Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor (top), Captain Dr Faiz Khaleed

1. Peggy Whitson (United States) – Flight engineer. Backup: **Michael Fincke**

2. Yuri Malechenko (Russia) – Soyuz commander. Backup: **Sharizan Sharipov**

3. Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor (Malaysia) – Astronaut. Backup: **Faiz Khaleed**

Heatshield with solid propellant retro-rockets for soft landing