

Space station gets special delivery

After more than a decade of preparation Europe is about to join the International Space Station. The Italian-built Harmony node – the first new module in six years – will allow two new laboratories, from Europe and Japan, to be hooked up and the station's permanent crew size to be increased from three to six people

1 Nov 1998: Russia launches *Zarya* control module

2 Dec 1998: NASA launches *Unity* node

3 Jul 2000: Russia launches *Zvezda* service module and living quarters

Progress freighter

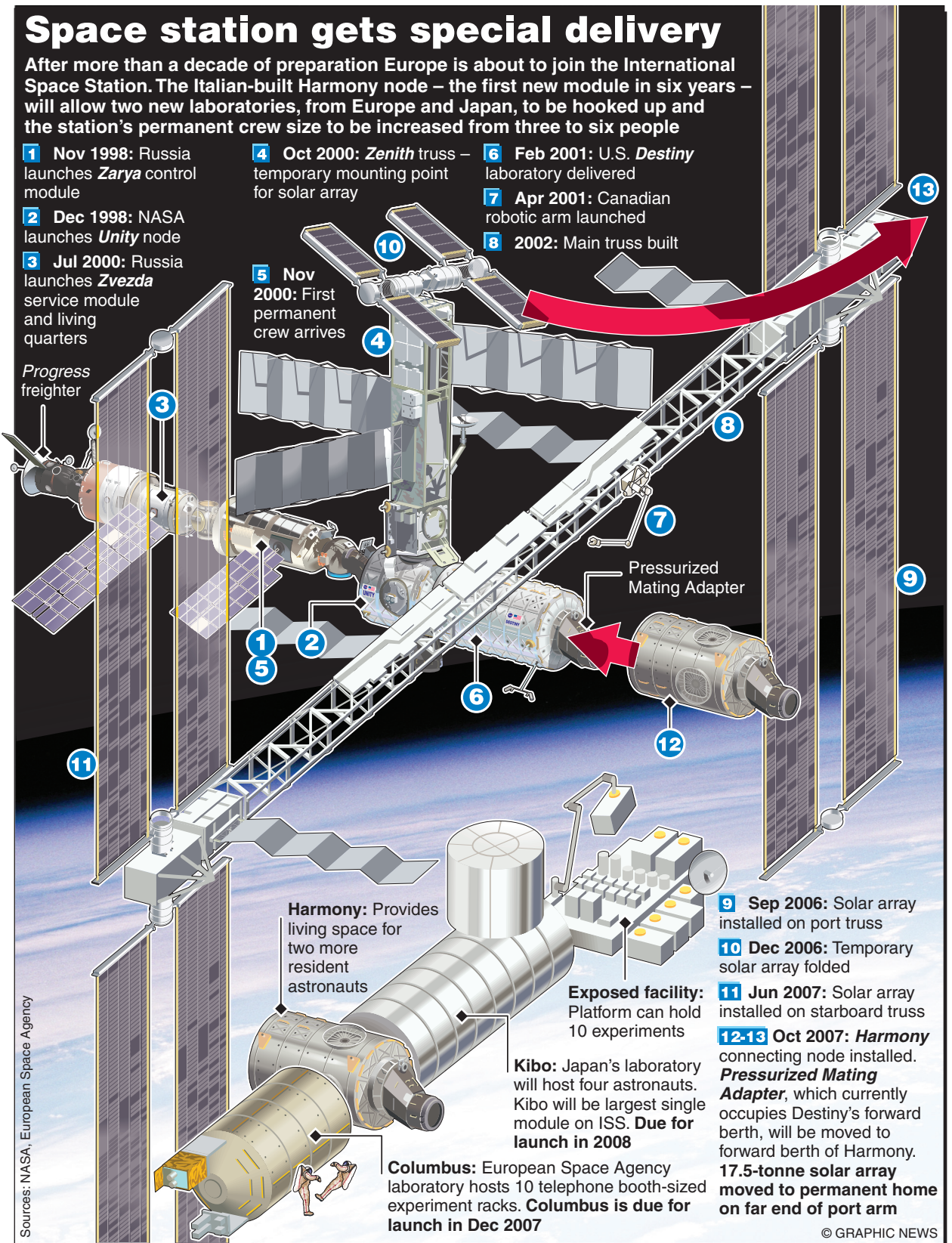
4 Oct 2000: *Zenith* truss – temporary mounting point for solar array

5 Nov 2000: First permanent crew arrives

6 Feb 2001: U.S. *Destiny* laboratory delivered

7 Apr 2001: Canadian robotic arm launched

8 2002: Main truss built



Harmony: Provides living space for two more resident astronauts

Exposed facility: Platform can hold 10 experiments

Kibo: Japan's laboratory will host four astronauts. Kibo will be largest single module on ISS. **Due for launch in 2008**

Columbus: European Space Agency laboratory hosts 10 telephone booth-sized experiment racks. **Columbus is due for launch in Dec 2007**

9 Sep 2006: Solar array installed on port truss

10 Dec 2006: Temporary solar array folded

11 Jun 2007: Solar array installed on starboard truss

12-13 Oct 2007: *Harmony* connecting node installed. **Pressurized Mating Adapter**, which currently occupies *Destiny*'s forward berth, will be moved to forward berth of *Harmony*. **17.5-tonne solar array moved to permanent home on far end of port arm**