

# Inflatable addition to space station

A low-cost space habitat that inflates like a balloon will be tested aboard the International Space Station. The *Bigelow Expandable Activity Module (BEAM)* will be installed on the Tranquility section using a robotic arm

1. Module delivered inside cargo hold of SpaceX's Dragon capsule

2. Robotic arm removes 2.1-metre diameter BEAM module

3. Arm swings BEAM to open berth of station's Tranquility section

4. Beam attached to air lock. When inflated, module measures 4m long by 3.2m wide

Human to scale

**Shell:** Prevents micro-meteoroid/space debris from penetrating craft

Multiple layers of Nextel ceramic fabric and foam

Super-strong woven Kevlar and Vectran

Water bladders provide radiation protection

Nomex fireproof material

Position of Tranquility and BEAM module