

Progress M-18M Spacecraft Splashes Down in Pacific

By The Moscow Times

July 26, 2013



Fragments of Russia's Progress M-18M space freighter landed in the Pacific Ocean after reentering the atmosphere on Friday, a spokesman for the mission control center said.

The spacecraft undocked from the International Space Station shortly after midnight Moscow time and started its final journey towards a remote location in the Pacific Ocean known as the "spacecraft cemetery."

"At 4:42 Moscow time, fragments of the space freighter fell in the Pacific Ocean approximately 4,000 kilometers from New Zealand's capital Wellington," the mission control spokesman said.

The launch of the next Russian cargo spacecraft to the ISS, Progress M-20M, is scheduled to take place at 00:45 Moscow time on Sunday from the Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan.

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