

Soyuz Spacecraft Lands in Kazakhstan

By The Moscow Times

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The crew of Soyuz TMA-08M land safely near the town of Dzhezkazgan in the Kazakh steppes.

KOROLYOV — Russia's Soyuz TMA-08M spacecraft with two Russian cosmonauts and one NASA astronaut on board landed safely in Kazakhstan on Wednesday.

The undocking from the International Space Station took place as scheduled, in an automated regime, a spokesman for Russia's Mission Control Center said earlier.

The spacecraft carried Roscosmos cosmonauts Pavel Vinogradov and Alexander Misurkin and NASA astronaut Christopher Cassidy, who arrived at the ISS in March.

It started reentry maneuvers at 6:05 a.m. and the landing capsule touched the ground about 50 minutes later in the designated area.

The three crew members were evacuated safely from the capsule and are said to be in good health.

"The crew felt normal during the descent and landing, the cosmonauts and the astronaut are

in good mood," a mission control spokesman said.

Twelve Mi-8 helicopters and three planes, as well as six rescue vehicles and 14 auxiliary vehicles, were deployed to ensure the safe recovery of astronauts, the Russian aviation agency Rosaviatsia said.

The ISS's new crew comprises of Russian cosmonaut Fyodor Yurchikhin, and astronauts Karen Nyberg of NASA and Luca Parmitano of the European Space Agency.

They will be joined by Russian cosmonauts Oleg Kotov and Sergei Ryazansky and NASA astronaut Michael Hopkins, who will blast off for the station in a Soyuz-TMA10M spacecraft at 12:58 a.m. on Sept. 26.

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