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Roscosmos 10-Year Budget Cut For Third Time

By The Moscow Times

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Russia's economic crisis and a broad readjustment of government spending across all sectors has forced Roscosmos to redraft its 10-year proposal several times over the past year.

Russia's federal space agency Roscosmos will receive just 1.5 trillion rubles ($22.5 billion) in government funding over the next ten years, less than half of estimated figures cited by space officials earlier this year, a Roscosmos statement said on Monday evening.

The space agency was planning on receiving around 3.4 trillion rubles as part of the Federal Space Program 2016-2025 (FSP), a decade-long planning document that lays out Russia's goals in space and allocates funding for them.

But Russia's economic crisis and a broad readjustment of government spending across all sectors has forced Roscosmos to redraft its 10-year proposal several times over the past year. Just three weeks after citing 3.4 trillion rubles in March, the figure was lowered by 41 percent to 2 trillion ($30 billion).

“Based on today's economic situation, the funding for activities in the FSP is set at [1.521 trillion] rubles,” Roscosmos director Igor Komarov was quoted as saying in the statement. “We have optimized the program, maintaining key projects ... which will allow the industry to develop.”

Komarov said the document, which will be submitted to the government in the near future for approval, secures just 1.4 trillion rubles ($21 billion) at the start.

The remaining 115 billion rubles will depend on the implementation of an unspecified project after 2021, depending on economic conditions.

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