

Russia Launches International Manhunt for Space Contractor Reportedly Hiding in U.S.

September 21, 2018



Roscosmos

Russian investigators have launched an international manhunt for the head of a bankrupt construction company contracted by the country's space agency who is accused of large-scale fraud and is believed to be hiding abroad.

Sergei Slastikhin, the head of Inzherniye Sistemy, was charged with fraud on Aug. 7 and placed on an international wanted list on Sept. 11, a Moscow judge said Thursday. His company held contracts for several Roscosmos Federal Space Agency sites and he reportedly had access to state secrets.

Related article: [Russia's FSB Launches Raids Over Suspected Missile Tech Leak to West](#)

Slastikhin has been arrested in absentia on suspicion of large-scale fraud, the RBC news website [cited](#) investigators as saying in court on Thursday.

“It’s been established that the defendant is hiding outside Russia and is currently in the U.S.,” the unnamed investigator told the Moscow court.

An unidentified source familiar with the investigation estimated damages from the suspected fraud at “hundreds of millions of rubles” to RBC.

Over the past year, federal auditors have [uncovered](#) billions of misspent funds in the Russian space industry.

Investigators have carried out a series of raids on [suspicions](#) of fraud and the [leaking](#) of secret hypersonic missile technology to the West.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2018/09/21/russia-launches-international-manhunt-space-contract-or-reportedly-hiding-us-a62954>