

Russia to Send 'Outstanding Citizens' to Space for Free

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Roscosmos

Russia's state space agency plans to send "outstanding citizens" to the International Space Station (ISS) at no cost in exchange for their achievements, the agency's head announced on Thursday.

The Roscosmos space agency [plans](#) to send tourists to the ISS in late 2021 under a deal [signed](#) with the U.S. tourism firm Space Adventures. Dmitry Rogozin, the head Roscosmos, has [vowed](#) to bring tourists to the ISS in less time than a Moscow-Brussels flight after a cargo spacecraft set a record last summer to reach the station.

Related article: [Russia Plans to Send Space Tourists on 'Gagarin Route' by 2021](#)

"We'll introduce rewards in the next phase [of space tourism]. In other words, we'll send unique Russian citizens [to the ISS] for their unique accomplishments," Rogozin was quoted as [saying](#) by the state-run TASS news agency.

He said teachers and scientists will be among the Russian space tourists given priority, according to the [Kommersant](#) business daily.

The Progress MS-11 cargo craft [set](#) another record of 3 hours and 22 minutes last week. Rogozin said shorter missions will boost Russia's competitiveness in the space tourism industry.

A state-run survey released to coincide with national Cosmonautics Day on Friday showed that a majority of Russian respondents still [view](#) their country as a global leader in space exploration.

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