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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russian Cosmonaut Alexei Leonov, First Human to Perform Spacewalk, Dies

October 11, 2019



Alexei Leonov (R) **NASA Johnson**

Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov, who made history by becoming the first man to walk in space, has died Friday at age 85.

Leonov's pioneering spacewalk marked a crucial step for the development of moon landing programs and the International Space Station.

On March 18, 1965, Leonov became the first man to walk in space when he crawled out of an inflatable airlock strapped to the side of his Voskhod 2 capsule for a 12-minute walk.

His spacewalk clinched two major objectives for the U.S.S.R. — beating the Americans to the deed and showing the world that humans could enter the vacuum of space.

Embed:

> Cosmonaut #AlexeiLeonov passed away today in Moscow. He was not only the first person to walk in space, but also an accomplished artist. Most significant, however, he was a great human being. Fair winds and following seas my friend. #RIP pic.twitter.com/sOELAZMPte
>
> — Scott Kelly (@StationCDRKelly) October 11, 2019

Leonov flew a second time in 1975, when he was the commander of the Soviet half of the landmark Apollo-Soyuz test project, the first Russian-American joint space mission.

Russia's state space agency Roscosmos has said it was saddened by Leonov's passing. NASA said Leonov's achievement "began the history of extravehicular activity that makes today's [ISS] maintenance possible."

Leonov is survived by his wife Svetlana Leonova, two daughters and two grandchildren.

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