

HUMAN SPACE ENDEAVOURS SYMPOSIUM (B3)
Astronauts: Those Who Make it Happen (5)

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STATUS AND PROSPECTS OF THE COSMONAUT SELECTION AND TRAINING SYSTEM
UTILIZATION

Abstract

Russian system of cosmonaut selection and training (SOPK) has proven itself for half a century. During past years it ensured efficient implementation of multiple manned space flight programs. The selection and training system was created as an individual element of manned space exploration infrastructure. Its present image appeared in mid 70s when together with the support of autonomous flights of "Soyuz" manned spacecraft the SOPK system could ensure cosmonaut preparation for testing and running big orbital complexes. Due to the implementation of national and international programs (from "Vostok" spacecraft to the International Space Station) it [the system] obtained the capability to efficiently adapt to various projects. The SOPK system "has learnt" to be a dynamic system. Its features are scientific relevance, capability of adaptation to the achievements of science and engineering and capability of cosmonaut training in various conditions. This paper overviews the present status of the Russian SOPK system and explores ways of its development. The relevant directions of the SOPK system for the implementation of advanced human space flight programs are: (1) cosmonaut candidate selection for interplanetary missions from persons with space flight experience and from those who have passed practical tests of long-term activities at big distances from their base facilities; (2) development of optimal training programs which would take into account deep specialization and universalism of crewmembers; (3) developing skills and capabilities of independent and creative activities onboard manned spacecraft, appropriate decision making in uncertain conditions and without ground support with cosmonauts; (4) improvement of cosmonaut psychological training which should be focused on development of stress resistance in extreme conditions.