

LAUNCH SOYUZ-TM9 FOR FLIGHT TO MIR:

The successful launch took place on 11 Febr. 1990 at 0616UTC. Separations: 1st stage at 161747UTC, 2d at 062046UTC and 3d at 062449UTC. From this moment on S-TM9 was in its first orbit with an apogee of 243 KM and a perigee of 198.7 KM. Commander is Solovyov, Anatoliy Yakovlevich, and engineer is Balandin, Aleksandr Nikolayevich. Today, as always after a S-TM launch the radiotraffic of this ship as well as that of MIR was very interesting. In their radiotraffic the MIR crew spoke about the flight of S-TM9 and this gave some extra information. Already during the first pass in orb. 2, S-TM9 could be heard on 121.750 mc between 0917 and 0920UTC. There were also transmission on 166.138 mc (TLM) and in the 922 mc band (Doppler measurements). 37 Minutes after this pass MIR showed up and the crew received information about the S-TM9 orbit corrections during its 4th and 5th orbits. 50 Minutes after MIR there was S-TM9 again and as its 3d orbit got its 4th during the pass the cosmonauts could be heard while reporting the results of the 1st orb. corr. Also in the pass between 1217 and 1227UTC the crew spoke about the motorburn, and the fuel consumption for the 2d orb. corr. Solovyov as well as Balandin communicated with each other and with TsUP and possibly the novice Balandin does not suffer of space-disease! The last pass of this day the cosmonauts slept (orb. 7, 1526-1532UTC) and only TLM and Doppler transmissions could be heard.

SOME INFO DERIVED FROM MIR RADIOTRAFFIC:

1. Expected time docking to MIR: on 13 Febr. 1990 at 0640UTC. (Just 1 orb. before the first pass here, so if no delay, we can not hear the traffic during the docking operation.
2. The Progress-M2, the freighter, has been undocked and decayed recently. This took place out of our range, but Viktorenko sent TV-images (taken from Pr.-M2 and recorded on board MIR) to TsUP with his comment.

PLANS:

- 1 Return to earth of Viktorenko and Serebrov with Soyuz-TM8 on 19 Febr. 1990.
2. Sol. and Bal. remain on board MIR for 6 moths.
3. Sol. and Bal. will receive Kvant-3 (Module-T) late March/ early April '90.
4. No plans for them to make EVA-s. (always possible however if needed)

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