

International Space Station Message to Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge Fleet

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Astronauts on board the International Space Station* have sent a message of support to the crews taking part in the Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge. Commander Gennady Padalka and Michael Barratt recorded a special message for the crews, sending their greetings and congratulations.

“We would like to send a special wish to all you young sailors. We know you will apply every effort to win but you should know that your participation in the regatta is already a victory. A victory of peace, friendship and understanding of nations,” said Commander Michael Barratt. “Our professions are very much alike and in an environment foreign and hostile, human being success always favours the most courageous and persistent people.”

Click here to view the complete message sent to the crews by the astronauts: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpvKz1F3A-4>

During the transatlantic race from Tenerife to Bermuda, a unique connection is being created that will see the crew of the International Space Station communicate to some of the Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge fleet via satellite links and the Moscow Control Centre.

The project is the brainchild of the Russian Youth Aerospace Society “VAKO Soyuz”, which was created in 1988 to develop and implement national youth education aerospace programmes with the aim of increasing knowledge in the field of technical and human sciences, for peaceful space exploration and exploitation.

Kruzenshtern, Etoile, Belle Poule, Spirit of Bermuda and Jolie Brise have all agreed to take part, with the potential for others to also join. The plan is to involve young astronauts of tomorrow in Russia in a unique experience when they will be able to pose questions to the astronauts via the young trainees on the Tall Ships that will give all participants a unique and exciting experience.

The first step will be for the young people on the ground in Russia to determine the International Space Station orbit. Meanwhile young sailors on board the Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge fleet will calculate the direction and coordinates of their ship. According to the results, the optimum time and geographic location will be established for radio

contact. As contact is made, the astronauts on board the Space Station are likely to see the ships crossing the Atlantic at the same time that radio contact is established. A total of five radio contacts will be conducted, each lasting around ten minutes.

The event is being set up at international level by space engineer Nathalie Pottier, a graduate of the Moscow Aviation Institute who has worked with the International Space Station and Launchers projects in Russia, United States, Netherlands, and France.

*The International Space Station is a joint project of the space agencies of the USA (NASA), Russia, Japan, Canada and ten European nations. It orbits the earth at a low altitude of approximately 190 nautical miles, completing around 15 orbits per day.

For more information about the Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge, including reports, images and race updates, visit the website: www.tallshipsraces.org.