

Cooperation in Space exploration

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VLADIMIR POPOVKIN was born in Dushanbe, Tajik Soviet Republic on 25 September 1957. In 1979 he served at the Baikonur Cosmodrome Launch Complex-1. Becoming the first Chief of Staff of the Russian Space Forces in 2001 and Commander of the Space Forces in 2004. In 2008 he became Chief of armaments and from 2010 until 2011 was First Deputy Minister of Defence. On 29 April 2011 he was appointed as the Head of the Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos).

The cooperation in the field of space between Russia and Great Britain has reached a new level in its development within the scope of Russian-British Space Year.

Many scientific and public events are being organised during 2011. Among these are Russian and British joint themed lectures, conferences and space shows which involve many famous scientists from both countries.

The unveiling of the statue of Yuri Gagarin in London on July, 14 was a major event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the First Manned Space Flight.

The President of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Medvedev, expressed his view to the guests that “the unveiling of this monument in London, which was visited by Yuri Gagarin 50 years ago, will strengthen friendship and cooperation between our countries and peoples.”

Our countries have a rich history in space cooperation. It goes back to the historic flight of Helen Patricia Sharman in 1991 onboard the Soyuz TM-12 and Soyuz TM-11 spacecrafts and her work on the Mir space station. This joint flight is a great example to young people, teaching them the value of friendship and achievement. It proves the feasibility of

and possibilities cooperation between modern space countries, such as Russia and Great Britain (as part of the European Space Agency).

The meeting between the Heads of the Federal Space Agency and the UK Space Agency in London on July was a great contribution.

The Parties have agreed on a range of joint projects in the space field. The discussed topics cover the GLONASS navigation satellite system development, research and experiments onboard the ISS and Russian Foton-M and Bion-M spacecraft. These spacecraft are specifically designed for technological and biomedical experiments in a microgravity environment.

The Parties have begun working on some specific aspects of joint science projects. These projects will investigate solar activity’s influence on Earth climate.

A global “road map” is regarded as the ultimate objective of this joint work. It will make the joint projects with the participation of Russian and British facilities and research organisations more defined.

Today we can be sure that Russian-British Space Year is a good basis for cooperation between our countries in space exploration. E



The statue of Yuri Gagarin unveiled outside the British Council in London