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«The Soyuz» is the name of multi-seat spaceships created in the USSR for flights in low Earth orbit.

The development of the Soyuz spacecraft began in the design bureau of **Sergei Korolev** in 1962. It was supposed to work out the means of rendezvous and docking of spacecraft in orbit of an artificial Earth satellite (AES), as well as the design and systems of the spacecraft, which would ensure the moon's flight around and return to Earth.

In 1965, in connection with the adoption of the new program for the Moon’s flyby, the Soyuz project, which was at the design stage at that time, was reoriented to create a manned orbital spacecraft intended for autonomous orbital flights by astronauts, to practice maneuvering and docking in Earth orbit , as well as for conducting some experiments.

During the development of the spacecraft, special attention was paid to creating favorable conditions for the work and life of the astronaut in the conditions of launch, flight and descent from orbit.

The positive results of ground and flight tests made it possible to make «the Soyuz» spacecraft admission to manned launches.

Regular flights of «the Soyuz» spacecraft began on October 26, 1968 with the launch of «the Soyuz-3» piloted by cosmonaut **Georgy Beregovoy**. In flight, he approached «the Soyuz-2» unmanned vehicle up to a distance of several tens of meters. When docking in orbit on January 16, 1969, two manned spacecraft «Soyuz-4» and «Soyuz-5» formed the first experimental space station and made the transition two astronauts in spacesuits from one spaceship to another through outer space.

In October 1969, a joint flight of three manned spacecraft took place with mutual maneuvering and scientific and technical experiments when the ground-based control complex was operated simultaneously with three spacecraft «Soyuz-6», «Soyuz-7», «and Soyuz-8» with seven astronauts on board.

In June 1970, the first long flight of 17.7 days was performed on the «Soyuz-9» spacecraft (cosmonauts **Andriyan Nikolaev and Vitaly Sevastyanov**). The Soyuz spacecraft flights provided a number of data for the construction of the «Salyut» and «Mir» orbital stations in space with interchangeable crews of space pilots.

«The Soyuz-T», a second-generation ship, was created as part of the military program on the basis of the first 7K-OK project. Subsequently, the military program was not developed, and in the USSR a new "civilian" «Soyuz» appeared with the index "T", who made the first manned flight in 1980. Improvements made to the design of the ship concerned engines, navigation systems, radio communications and others, and one of the main tasks was to reduce weight - as a result, the designers achieved the fact that the carrying capacity increased by 200 kilograms.

Some main facts from the developing the spaceship «The Soyuz»

«The Soyuz»

The first manned flight was in 1967, the last was in 1981.

"The Soyuz - T"

The first flight was in 1979, the last was in 1986. It had one unmanned test flight to Salyut-6 station, 3 manned flights to Salyut-6 station, 10 flights to Salyut-7 station and one flight with flights between Salyut-7 and Mir stations.

"The Soyuz - TM"

The first flight was in 1986, the last flight was in 2002. It had one flight unmanned test, 29 flights to Mir station, 4 flights to the ISS(International Space Station).

"The Soyuz -TMA"

The first flight was in 2002, the last flight was in 2012. It had 22 flights, all to the ISS(International Space Station).

"The Soyuz -TMA-M"

The first flight was in 2010, the last flight was in 2016. It had 20 flights, all to the ISS(International Space Station).

"The Soyuz-MS"

The first flight was in 2016. At the end of 2018 - one launch emergency, 10 flights to ISS(International Space Station).