



# THE SPACE RACE

## FROM COMPETITORS TO PARTNERS

The Space Race, initiated by the 1957 USSR satellite *Sputnik* launch, proved itself more than just another competition – it triggered an explosion of interest in the heavens and those brave enough to go there. People everywhere followed the launching and retrieval of space capsules sent on increasingly complex missions. Whether cosmonaut or astronaut, the accomplishments of Yuri Gagarin, John Glenn and others were celebrated.

The race effectively ended in 1969 when *Apollo 11* astronauts walked on the moon, claiming the achievement for all mankind. Then, what began as competition became cooperation. With its *Soyuz* program, the Soviets established orbital space station capability. In 1975, the first international “handshake in space” occurred when *Apollo* and *Soyuz* spacecrafts docked.

Following U.S. Space Shuttle-Russian *Mir* Space Station collaborations, the two nations have joined with 14 other countries to assemble the International Space Station, where at least two persons have lived on-board since 2000.



Top left: A technician prepares Sputnik for launch, 1957. Middle left two photos: American and Soviet amateur radio operators listen to beeps from Sputnik, 1957. Bottom left two photos: Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova, first woman in space, 1963; President John F. Kennedy and astronaut John Glenn inspect the Friendship 7 space capsule, 1962. Top right: Astronaut Thomas Stafford and cosmonaut Alexey Leonov meet in space, 1975. Middle right: German, Russian, and American crew members in the International Space Station, 2005. Right bottom: The International Space Station, 2006.

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