

2009

Crew of STS Mission 128/ISS Assembly Mission 17A (International)

The crew of STS 128:

Fredrick W. "Rick" Sturckow, Commander, NASA Astronaut

Kevin A. Ford, Pilot, NASA Astronaut

Patrick G. Forrester, Mission Specialist, NASA Astronaut

Christer Fuglesang, Mission Specialist, ESA Astronaut

Jose M. Hernandez, Mission Specialist, NASA Astronaut

John D. "Danny" Olivas, Mission Specialist, NASA Astronaut

Nicole P. Stott, Mission Specialist and ISS Flight Engineer and NASA Astronaut

Timothy L. Kopra, Mission Specialist and ISS Flight Engineer and NASA Astronaut

International Space Station (ISS) Assembly Mission 17A along with Increment 20:

Gennady Padalka, Commander, RSA Cosmonaut

Michael R. Barratt, NASA Astronaut

Frank De Winne, ESA Astronaut

Roman Romanenko, RSA Cosmonaut

Robert B. Thirsk, CSA Astronaut

Justification: The significance of the STS-128 / ISS Assembly Mission 17A was that it delivered significant science and environmental improvements to the ISS complex to mark a quantum leap in the scientific capability of the orbital laboratory.

The STS-128 mission began with a successful launch on August 28, 2009 from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA. While en-route to the International Space Station, the crew of Space Shuttle Discovery executed multiple techniques to inspect the vehicle's thermal protection system for any damage.

Following docking with the ISS, the crews of STS-128 and Expedition 20 worked together, performing a total of three complex spacewalks to execute the objectives of the 17A assembly mission. The extraordinary skill of these astronauts to perform complex robotic arm operations from Shuttle, in coordination with three

very demanding spacewalks resulted in increased science and a more habitable environment for the six-person crew on the ISS.

Finally, NASA Astronaut Nicole Stott remained on the Space Station to serve as an Expedition 21 crewmember replacing Timothy Kopra, who returned home with the crew of STS-128 after two months working on the Space Station. The STS-128/17A crew left the ISS with vast improvements to its scientific research capability and its environment and habitability for current and future six-person crews.

The STS-128 mission was completed with a nominal landing at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on September 11, 2009. This outstanding mission is highly deserving of the Komarov Diploma.