

First ISS Advanced Training at EAC

In August, the first International Astronaut Class started training at the European Astronaut Centre (EAC) in Cologne, Germany. Ten astronauts – four from NASDA, two from NASA, and four from ESA – received their Advanced Training lessons on Columbus, Automated Transfer Vehicle (ATV) systems and ESA payloads.

Two ESA Astronauts on the ISS

Roberto Vittori was the third ESA astronaut to visit the International Space Station (ISS) when he flew as Flight Engineer with the 'Marco Polo' Soyuz Taxi Flight, launched from Baikonur on 25 April, docking with the



Roberto Vittori aboard the ISS during the 'Marco Polo' mission



EAC's first International ISS Astronaut Advanced Training Class, photographed in front of the Columbus module. From left to right: S. Furukawa (NASDA), S. Wilson (NASA), P. Nespoli (ESA), T. Reiter (ESA), P. Duque (ESA), K. Wakata (NASDA), L. Eyharts (ESA), T. Doi (NASDA), N. Stott (NASA) and A. Hoshide (NASDA)



Frank De Winne at work on the ISS, and with his fellow 'Odyssey' mission crew members after their landing in Kazakhstan

demanding experimental programme that was performed in the Russian modules as well as in the US Laboratory, this crew returned to Earth on 10 November.

ESA Astronauts' Careers and Duties

Following national elections in France, the sole female ESA astronaut, Claudie Haigneré, was nominated as Minister for Research and New Technologies in the French Government. Following her departure to take up this important assignment, the integration of national astronauts into the European Astronaut Corps was completed by the recruitment of the French astronaut Philippe Perrin.

As part of their collateral duties, ESA astronauts supported the Columbus and ATV development programmes, as well as a number of payload-development projects. They also supported the preparation of training courses, mission operations for the Soyuz flights, and various public-relations and outreach activities.



Missions Supported by EAC

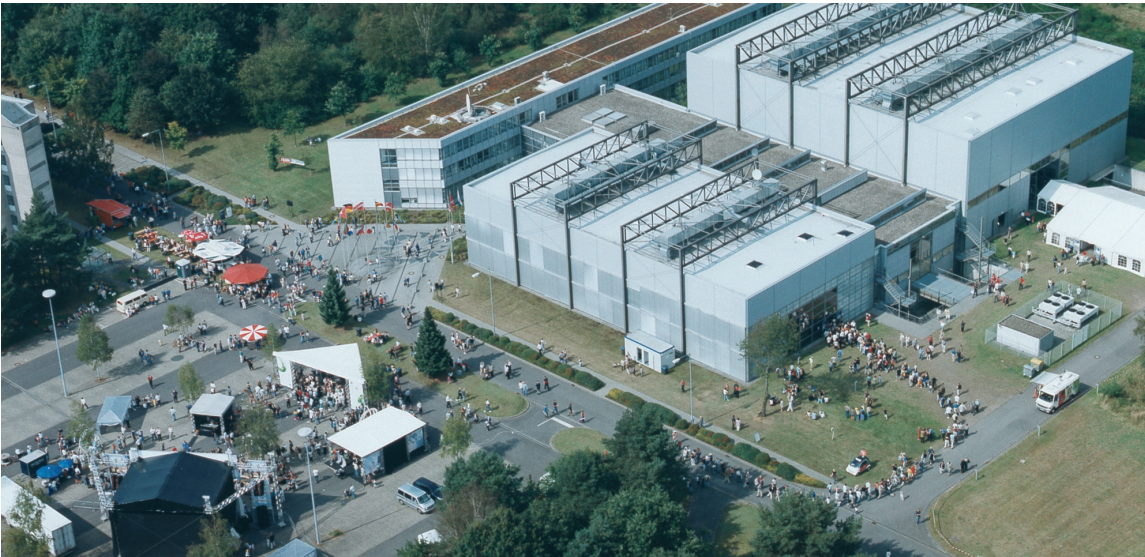
For both the 'Marco Polo' and 'Odyssey' missions, EAC staff provided mission support at launch and landing, as well as during the missions themselves, from the Russian Control Centre (TsUP), from ESTEC in Noordwijk (NL) and from EAC. This support included medical-operations and safety support during mission preparation and execution, medical support by the EAC crew surgeon and conducting the post-

ISS two days later. After the successful completion of the experiment programme and the exchange of the Soyuz vehicles, the crew landed safely in Kazakhstan on 5 May.

Frank De Winne was the next ESA astronaut to visit the ISS when he participated in the 'Odyssey' Soyuz Taxi Flight, launched on 30 October. Following completion of a



The medical support consoles at EAC



flight rehabilitation programme. This marked a significant milestone for EAC, as it was the first time that the medical consoles at EAC had been used for real-time mission support.

Thousands of Visitors to EAC

More than 80 000 visitors attended the open day on German Space Day, co-organised by the German National Space Agency and EAC, on 8 September in Cologne. The German Minister for Education and Research, Mrs Edelgard Bulmahn, visited EAC and made a live call to the ISS. The main attraction for the public at EAC was a stage programme involving most of ESA's astronauts, as well as training and medical demonstrations and displays.



The hectic scenes at EAC on 8 September, German Space Day

German Minister Edelgard Bulmahn at EAC on 8 September, shaking hands with ESA astronaut Pedro Duque

During 2002, apart from the German Space Day, more than 8000 visitors participated in special events, presentations and guided tours at EAC, a quarter of them being school classes and student groups.