Joel Montalbano the deputy ISS program manager here in Baikonur Joel and other Soyuz on the pad ready to launch another crew in this case two Americans launching the addition of a third NASA astronaut onboard to start a gyro that type of crew complement how is that going to increase research and solidify all the utilization that you expect over
the next year okay well thank you rob

the additional astronauts fantastic

this expedition will have almost 200

experiments with about 50 of those

experiments being new for this crew and

basically what we're doing with the

extra crew time is we're doubling the

amount of crew hands-on utilization and

research so just one person we're going

to be up to almost 70 hours 70 crew

hours of hands-on research and use a

ssin per week average over the increment

it's just exciting time to be in the

program how complex is this next six
months in orbit going to be for a Kaba

VandeHei and you know right now with the

additional crew member we continue to

hit our stride on space station and

doing more and more utilization and

research and the ability to do the

science do the research get those

results to the scientists on ground it's

just fantastic and and so we're looking

forward to it and we're just happy to be

here three weeks from now the 60th

anniversary of the launch of Sputnik

from this very launchpad will be mark a

very significant milestone in six
decades of human spaceflight that have

evolved since the launch of Sputnik what

how far have we come how far can we go

we as you know we've come a long way the

ability to fly six people on space

station like we have today is incredible

we see these opportunities are presented

to us and allow us to do the utilization

allow us to do the research and to keep

moving forward and this is important as

we look forward to exploration you know

eventually Space Station will end and

we'll have to go past the low-earth

orbit and go to system under space and

these days these times that we've been
working on these past 60 years we're taking steps forward to go make that happen

Shawn fuller the director of human spaceflight programs in Russia here in Baikonur Sean this is the second Soyuz launch of a crew in just seven weeks it's pretty remarkable when you think about it let's talk a little bit about the pace of activity over the past several months and what clearly will be an incredibly busy end of the year for the program Robert certainly been a busy year but a
great year we've got three crew members ready to join their crewmates that are on orbit now like I said they launched just seven weeks ago they've been on orbit doing a lot of research doing a lot of things to get us ready to explore beyond low-earth orbit with this addition the crew will continue that we've seen a lot of visiting vehicles coming spacex is currently on the space station we'll be departing here in a couple weeks they'll be returning back to earth returning some of that science to the ground shortly after that we'll
have a progress launching and then we'll have another space sex in orbit later

this year the crews also gonna be doing some EVs starting early next month as we prepare the outside and do some maintenance on the outside of the station so getting these crew members on orbit to do that increase our research we're gonna have a fantastic time up there as we continue what started nearly 17 years ago with the human presence on the space station this is the first time since June of 2010 that two Americans will be launching on the Soyuz what is
the significance of having three NASA astronauts onboard an expanded US orbital segment crew presence as you tackle all the tasks ahead it's great to have that expanded us crew president so in orbit we've got a lot of research in store for them this particular crew along with their crewmates will be conducting over 250 different investigations during their time on orbit that's going to cover the gamut of human research biotechnology Earth sciences physical sciences really cover the spectrum of research that'll benefit not only those of us here on the ground
but it's also technology that'll be advancing us further into the space as we go beyond low-earth orbit so having that additional research we'll be able to double our research time on a u.s. segment and so this is a really a fantastic step forward as we look ahead to Commercial Crew when will continually have for us OS crewmembers on orbit you know we always talk about this launch pad its history we always talk about it in regard to yuri gagarin having launched in this patch but four years before Gagarin was
the launch of Sputnik 1 on October 4th

1957 that started all of this your

thoughts on the significance of that how

far we as a human race have come in 60

years yeah I think it's pretty

spectacular like you said 60 years ago

we took that first small step from here

today we have humans living in space and

I like to remind folks that we did start

that on a space station 17 years ago and

so there's a whole generation now that

their life has been with people living

in space we're now living in space and

we'll start venturing further beyond
beyond low-earth orbit and so we'll
we'll take those next steps just like we
did exploring new worlds here on earth
we're exploring new space in space and
going farther beyond