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**IUFO: Russian Space Woes**

From: [galaxy37@1starnet.com](mailto:galaxy37@1starnet.com) ([Galaxy37@theStarGate](mailto:Galaxy37@theStarGate))  
Date: Mon, 30 Dec 1996 21:18:14 -0600  
Fwd Date: Wed, 01 Jan 1997 15:37:41 -0500  
Subject: IUFO: Russian Space Woes

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from international Wire Reports (20 December 1996)

MOSCOW - The Russian space program is so short of money that it may have to shut down the orbiting station Mir, a news agency reported Thursday.

Yuri Koptev, head of the space agency, also told a Cabinet meeting that the agency is falling behind on its part of the international space station, Alpha, the Interfax news agency reported.

He said the space agency has exhausted its stock of booster rockets and has enough money to carry out just 11 of 27 planned launches this year. Cosmonauts aboard the Mir often have to extend their stays because of delays in building expensive rockets to bring them home.

The Mir, which has been in orbit for a decade, is the pride of the Russian program.

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