

## Re: Space station future adrift (Soyuz purchase crisis)

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2004-12/1278.html>

---

**From:** Joann Evans (*bondage\_at\_frontiernet.net*)

**Date:** 12/01/04

Date: Wed, 01 Dec 2004 00:13:26 GMT

Henry Spencer wrote:

>  
> > *If the yanks can't send money to Russia, perhaps they could get China to*  
> > *supply the "Soyuz" in exchange for becoming a member of the ISS ?*  
>  
> *Distinctly unlikely. Many of the people currently in power in Washington*  
> *have gotten there partly by howling with alarm about the Yellow Peril:*  
> *how the evil Chinese were stealing US technology and how the traitorous*  
> *Democrat scum in the White House and Congress were letting them get away*  
> *with it. Serious space cooperation with China would require a major*  
> *policy turnaround, and years of effort mending the rather frayed relations*  
> *between the two countries.*

And even if you got it, it would be a fragile thing that one more incident with a recon plane (or similar event) could delay further, or shatter....

> *A lifeboat by that route is just not in the*  
> *cards right now.*

Besides, the Soyuz design has a long operational history behind it. We pretty much understand it. Shenzhou, though similar, has flown manned only once so far. How much would we want it, on that basis, alone?

--

You know what to remove, to reply....