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- *From:* Pat Flannery <flanner@xxxxxxxxxx>
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Andi Kleen wrote:

Didn't the Russians already build all weather rockets for many years?

I guess it was required because they were designed as ICBMs and those are not supposed to wait for better weather.

Both the Soyuz and Proton boosters started life as ICBM designs. Here's a shot of a Proton launch in very low cloud conditions:

<http://www.spaceflightnow.com/proton/expressam22/>

Baikonur has notoriously bad weather- blizzards in winter, violent thunderstorms in summer.

That also probably influenced their rocket designs.

Pat

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