

Russian Manned Spaceflight Goal

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I worked with the Russians in 1993 when NASA was looking into buying a Soyuz as the station's lifeboat. They told me their goal at the time was permanent manned presence in space at minimum cost. If they got some real science back, great. But to them the Mir itself was a big science experiment.

Part of me thinks we should do better -- i.e. explore the solar system and/or do lot of science. The problem is the cost goes WAY up. Part of me thinks permanent manned presence in space for the lowest cost possible might not be a bad goal for NASA. With the current budget situation, this might be as much as NASA can do. It certainly is an objective that is easy to measure. The key is to look at how to get the cost down. As a minimum we would learn a lot about what is needed to go to Mars someday.

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