

Section 14 - Conclusions

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Conclusions

The Phase 1 Program endured through a fire, a collision, several power shortages, and other significant contingencies and last-minute adjustments and proudly accomplished its four main objectives:

1. Learn how to work with international partners.
2. Reduce risks associated with developing and assembling a space station.
3. Gain operational experience for NASA on long-duration missions.
4. Conduct life science, microgravity, and environmental research programs.

U.S. and Russian space programs bridged cultural, linguistic, and technical differences and created a joint process for analysis, mission safety assessment, and certification of flight readiness. This collaboration resulted in a joint program spanning more than four years that capitalized on a combined four decades of spacefaring expertise both in Earth orbital and intercosmos exploration to build the foundation for an International Space Station.