SOVIET INTERNATIONAL MANNED SPACEFLIGHTS . Alec Bartos, Romania

The exhibit describes the manned spaceflights of former USRR in collaboration with different nations.

The first and most famous international manned flights of Apollo Soyuz Test Project (ASTP) are treated with a special attention. The exhibit describes the history of the project since the signing of the agreement, the different phases of preparations and the missions themselves. Details of the training and test missions for the ASTP are also included. Tracking stations and ships, mission control centers and other departments involved in the project were also considered.

Another special treatment is conferred to the Soviet Tracking and Communications Ships involved in supporting these international manned missions. Throughout the exhibit different postmarks and cancellations related to these ships are explained.

For each of the described spaceflight the main steps of the mission, launch, board activities and landing are illustrated with covers from the launch place, flown in space, respectively exact location and date of landing.

The Soyuz 28 mission was the first Intercosmos flight, whereby military pilots from Soviet bloc nations were flown on flights of about eight days to a Soviet space station. Pilots from other nations would eventually also fly. The exhibits deepen all these missions until the collapse of the Soviet Union when cosmonaut Krikalev, a.k.a. "the last Citizen of the USSR", was launched from the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic of the USSR, and landed in the independent Kazakhstan.

The exhibits end with Soyuz TM 14 mission – the first international flight between Russia (instead of USSR) and the reunited Germany, launched from the new formed country of Kazakhstan.