



EXCALIBUR • ALMAZ

HISTORY OF DISPLAY SPACECRAFT

The Excalibur Almaz Reuse Return Vehicle (RRV) on display has a remarkable history. It has flown to Low Earth Orbit two times, proving its reusability. RRV and the U.S. space shuttle are the only spacecraft to fly more than once in space.

The RRV first flight was part of the “Cosmos-929” spacecraft which flew on orbit from 17 July – 18 August, 1977.

The second flight was one orbit on March 30, 1978. This important second flight was conducted for the purpose of demonstrating reusability, and it was designed “Cosmos-998”.

The Almaz RRV was designed to carry a crew of up to three or a combination of crew and cargo. It was designed for land or sea landing. Further tests on this particular spacecraft included sea testing from 19 March, 1980 – 7 July, 1982. At one of stages of sea test, a crew of three commanded by USSR Cosmonaut Gennady Sarafanov was inside the RRV compartment for 72 hours and was successfully removed from the crew compartment in heavy seas.

Following sea tests, the spacecraft was used for exhibition display.

