

# Russia to leave ISS after 2024, focus on building own outpost

Roscosmos chief tells Putin Moscow will fulfil its obligations

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW

Russia will pull out of the International Space Station after 2024 and focus on building its own orbiting outpost, the country's new space chief said on Tuesday amid high tensions between Moscow and the West over the fighting in Ukraine.

Yuri Borisov, appointed this month to lead the state space agency, Roscosmos, said during a meeting with President Vladimir Putin that Russia will fulfill its obligations to its partners before it leaves.

"The decision to leave the station after 2024 has been made," Mr. Borisov said, adding: "I think that by that time we will start forming a Russian orbiting station."

Mr. Borisov's statement reaffirmed previous declarations by Russian space officials about Moscow's intention to leave the space



**After a long run:** NASA and other partners hope to keep the space station running until 2030. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

station after 2024 when the current international arrangements for its operation end.

NASA and other international partners hope to keep the space station running until 2030, while the Russians have been reluctant to make commitments beyond 2024.

The space station is jointly run by the space agencies of Russia, the U.S., Europe, Japan and Canada. The first

piece was put in orbit in 1998, and the outpost has been continuously inhabited for nearly 22 years. It is used to conduct scientific research in zero gravity and test out equipment for future space journeys.

It typically has a crew of seven, who spend months at a time aboard the station as it orbits about 400 km from Earth. Three Russians, three Americans and one Italian are now on board.