

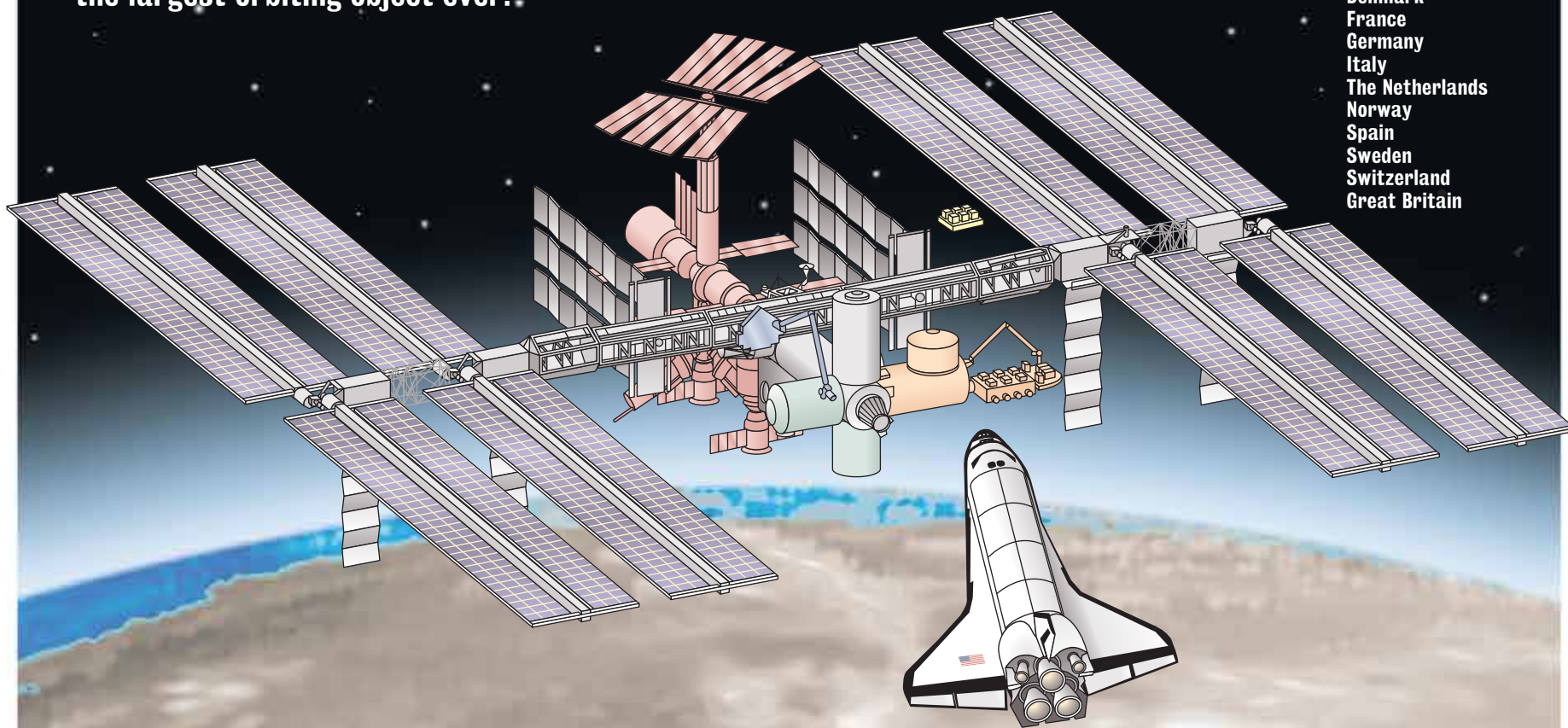
TO LIVE IN SPACE

Shuttle Endeavour is going into orbit today to begin construction of the International Space Station, the most ambitious space program since Apollo took men to the moon 30 years ago. Piecing together contributions from 16 countries, the shuttle and Russian spacecraft will make 45 flights during the next five years to build the largest orbiting object ever.

THE PLAYERS

The bulk of the station is American made. The other contributors:

- RUSSIA
- CANADA
- JAPAN
- BRAZIL
- EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY:
- Belgium
- Denmark
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- The Netherlands
- Norway
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Great Britain

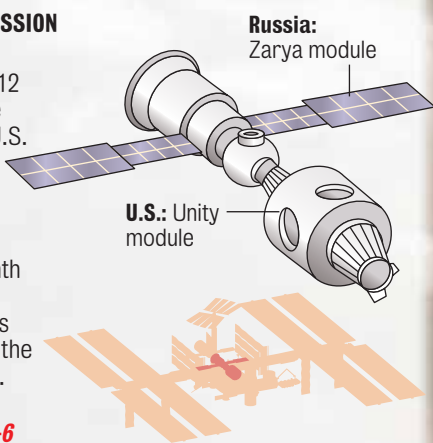


THE FIRST STEP

ENDEAVOUR'S MISSION Dec. 4-16

During the next 12 days, the shuttle crew will link a U.S. module carried into orbit on the shuttle to the Russian module sent up last month on an unmanned rocket. From this small structure, the station will arise.

Putting it all together, see A-6



INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION FACTS

FULL HOUSE: The first crew will be three, but the station will accommodate up to seven astronauts and cosmonauts on completion.

HIGH FLIER: The station orbits once every 90 minutes at an altitude of 217 to 285 miles

FOOTBALL ANYONE? The station covers an area the size of one football field, end zones included.

A BIG DEAL: On Earth, it would weigh 470 tons.

FIRST-CLASS SEATING: Interior space totals 46,000 cubic feet, about the same as

two Boeing 747 jumbo jets.

KIND OF A DRAG: There's still enough stray air molecules at 200 miles to slowly drag the station down to Earth. So periodically, a rocket will attach itself to the station and boost it back into proper orbit.

THE GREAT ESCAPE: The station will be equipped in 2003 with a "lifeboat," a special seven-person gliding spacecraft with a rocket engine and a parachute that could take the crew back to Earth.