Viktor Patsayev Encyclopedia Article

Viktor Patsayev

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Viktor Patsayev

1933-1971

Soviet engineer and cosmonaut who was test engineer of the first crew to live aboard a space station. Patsayev joined the Korolev spacecraft design bureau as an engineer in 1957. He worked extensively on the design of *Salyut 1*, the world's first station, and spent 23 days in space as a member of its first crew. He died, along with flight engineer Vladislav Volkov and mission commander Georgy Dobrovolsky, when the spacecraft returning them to Earth depressurized.