



The Spacefarer's Handbook **by Bergita Ganse and Urs Ganse**

Springer Praxis Books Space Exploration
ISBN 978-3-662-61701-4
ISBN 978-3-662-61702-1 (eBook)
© Springer-Verlag GmbH Germany, part of
Springer Nature 2020,
295 Pages

Although the title suggests the book will address people with the desire to travel into space, this tome by Bergita and Urs Ganse is much more than a handbook for a casual reader.

The charm of the book is it wraps “All” the known history and the current knowledge of human spaceflight into an multidisciplinary textbook for the benefit of a potential astronaut, thus putting the reader in an active role he or she can identify with and is prepared to absorb the non-trivial information provided in an easy understandable and entertaining way. And by “All”, I mean it in the truest sense – it is an impressive encyclopedia compilation of facts rarely to be found under one cover. With the provision of links in form of QR codes, inserted throughout the various chapters helps to keep your knowledge up-to-date in areas where changes are soon to be expected. So, in this respect the book can be kept as a true “handbook”, not being outdated in the next “season”.

With their European and American insider knowledge of human spaceflight the “sibling”-authors cover the worldwide human spaceflight activities and all relevant associated subjects in a well researched way, even including details not so publicized in official media. One example is the description of a “hybrid rocket” using solid fuel and liquid oxidizer.

The authors compiled very thoroughly the up to date information on how to build and fly a spacecraft, daily life in space, space medicine, exploration and colonization – all under the Spacefarer's aspect. The chapter “Exploration and Colonization” is particularly interesting because it branches out into the discussion of human colonies, de-masks terraforming of other planets as sci-fi, but addresses also the ever growing importance of international space law.

The provided information is available from various official sources and is spread throughout the internet, but what makes the book unique is that the authors followed the principle “organize and summarize” condensing the information to the essentials enriched with hints and anecdotes.

The resulting compilation takes full advantage of modern tools of the digital age: the book is available in printed form and as e-book, is searchable according to its clear chapter index, has included all relevant references as links and/or QR codes thus employing a self-organized update mechanism connecting the book and your PC to the always accelerating flow of time, keeping you on top of developments.

Needless to say that the collected illustrating images are excellent – some even not published before and the very detailed keyword register makes it easy to navigate the vast material.

The book is highly recommended for the earnest Spacefarer because its exhaustive and up-to-the minute information will help him or her to devote herself or himself more deeply to the topic or to turn away in time.

And who of us wouldn't carry a little bit of Spacefarer from youth in himself?