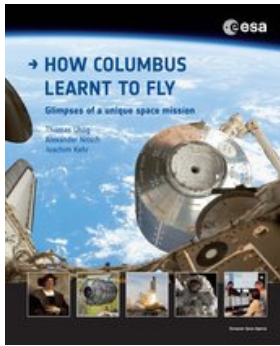


How Columbus Learnt to Fly: More than a fascinating Coffee Table book.



This is more than a coffee table book!

It is the "official" book on the history of ISS and the commissioning of the European COLUMBUS laboratory module. The description of the first exciting days of docking and activating the Columbus "world class" lab meticulously reads like a "blog" of the flight directors.

Primarily the authors wanted to document their unprecedented experience of over 20 years in the development and implementation of the worldwide first international project comprising all major spacefaring nations. Also they had the "the taxpayer" in mind to provide an account of what actually happened with "his/her" money ("space-millions").

For the technically interested layman, a lot of spaceflight and project background information is given in order to promote an understanding of the future discussions and developments in the international human spaceflight "arena". The authors also describe the interactions and relations between the global partners and their interdependency which in some instances were more problematic than the technical challenges.

To read this book is a "must" for every engineer, scientist or manager who is interested in the future of human space flight - it will also be very helpful for policy makers to draw the right conclusions from past experiences to avoid erroneous decision.

With the retirement of US shuttle transportation system "Space Shuttle" in July 2011 (STS-135), the book could be seen as a "swan song" for a grandiose era of human spaceflight the like of which which will not be seen again.

The book is available as hardcover and e-book in the [ESA bookstore](#) or at [spacebooks-online](#)

Nov 2013, Joachim J. Kehr Editor SpaceOps News