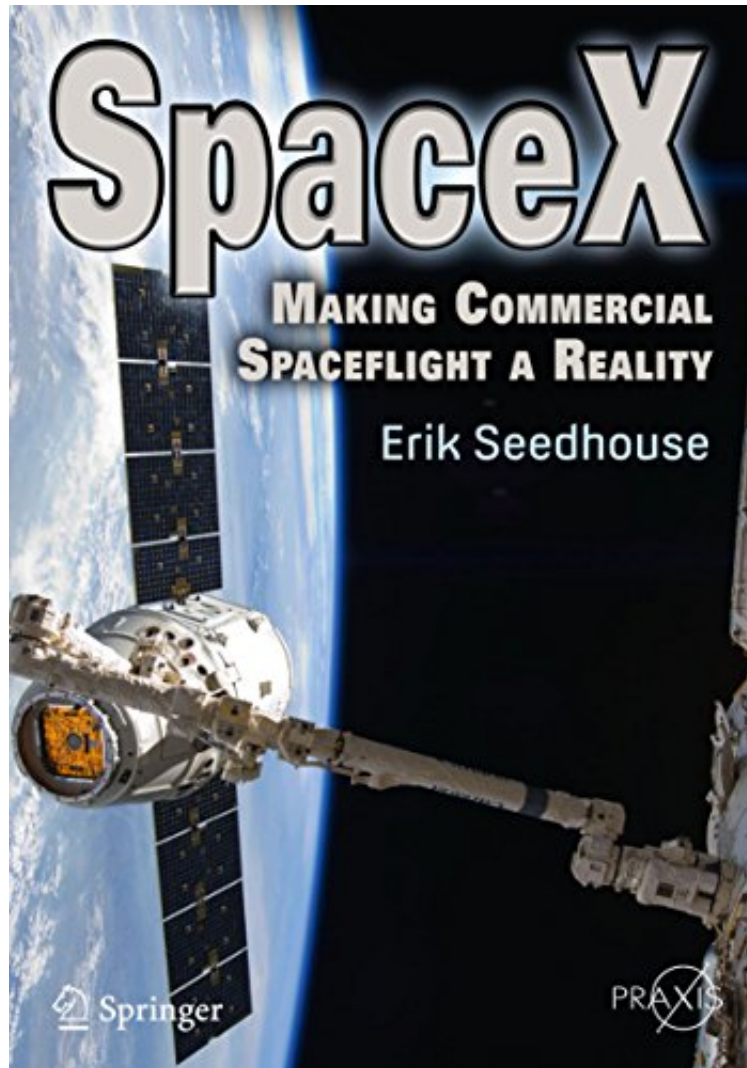


(Free pdf) SpaceX: Making Commercial Spaceflight a Reality (Springer Praxis Books)

SpaceX: Making Commercial Spaceflight a Reality (Springer Praxis Books)

Erik Seedhouse

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Erik Seedhouse : SpaceX: Making Commercial Spaceflight a Reality (Springer Praxis Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised SpaceX: Making Commercial Spaceflight a Reality (Springer Praxis Books):

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Not Your Father's Spacecraft Company!By Terry SundayHaving recently retired after a long career with one of the "Big Three" aerospace corporations, I have always had a pretty dim view of the privatization of spaceflight. I guess I was just "old school" enough to believe, deep down but without any objective analysis, that spaceflight was and always would be the province of governments. My career taught me, at the visceral level, that putting things into Earth orbit and beyond is risky, complicated and expensive, and I figured,

without really thinking too much about it, that only governments had the resources to conduct spaceflight operations successfully. Having said that, the main factor that caused me to be so spectacularly wrong in my assessment of commercial spaceflight possibilities was the rise of the Internet billionaire. Since I had not really followed the growth of private spaceflight companies such as Orbital Sciences Corporation, Kistler Aerospace and Space Exploration Technologies ("SpaceX") over the last 10 years or so, I didn't know very much about them. Every once in a while a local news item would appear about the construction of Spaceport America, just up the road from me north of Las Cruces, New Mexico, where Virgin Galactic's air-launched SpaceshipTwo will soon start lobbing well-heeled tourists on short up-and-down suborbital hops. That piqued my interest in commercial spaceflight a little, so I picked up a copy of Eric Seedhouse's "SpaceX: Making Commercial Spaceflight a Reality" as soon as it became available. And now I know a lot more about the subject. "SpaceX" is a typical Springer/Praxis book, and that's high praise indeed. Its detailed, comprehensive, technically accurate (as far as I can tell) and quite readable, considering the esoteric subject matter. At just over 200 pages, "SpaceX" is a lot thinner than a normal Springer/Praxis tome, but packed into those 200 pages is the whole, if brief, history of the company. The story begins in 2002 with SpaceX's founding by Internet entrepreneur Elon Musk (of PayPal and Tesla Motors fame), continues through its in-house development of rocket engines, launch vehicles and spacecraft, and concludes with its successful March 2013 Dragon cargo module flight to the International Space Station. While there is enough detail about the engines, boosters, spacecraft, testing and mission operations to satisfy techno-geeks, much of the text describes the financial arrangements with NASA that were key to SpaceX's success. I found those parts less interesting, but they are important if one wants to understand the funding and politics of privately conducted spaceflights. Black-and-white and color photos abound throughout "SpaceX." Some of them are not as clear as they could be, and a few have mildly weird color casts, but they are very useful in supplementing the text. Unlike the normal Springer/Praxis book, it only took me a few days to read "SpaceX." When I finished it, I felt I had gained an excellent understanding of the future of spaceflight in the 21st century. It certainly is different than what I grew up with! If you're at all interested in learning how private companies will soon dominate U.S. spaceflight operations with hardware they've developed for far less money than it would cost the government, read "SpaceX: Making Commercial Spaceflight a Reality." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Informative Book By Joseph Galvin Learned a lot about the subject in title, very interesting. I highly recommend this to anyone interested in the current environment of space travel and commercial endeavors in the present. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Go Elon! By garth lippmann What a story, Elon. I'm a fan of SpaceX having retired from TRW, Northrop/Grumman.

This first account of commercial spaceflight's most successful venture describes the extraordinary feats of engineering and human achievement that have placed SpaceX at the forefront of the launch industry and made it the most likely candidate for transporting humans to Mars. Since its inception in 2002, SpaceX has sought to change the space launch paradigm by developing a family of launch vehicles that will ultimately reduce the cost and increase the reliability of space access tenfold. Coupled with the newly emerging market for governmental, private, and commercial space transport, this new model will re-ignite humanity's efforts to explore and develop space. Formed in 2002 by Elon Musk, the founder of PayPal and the Zip2 Corporation, SpaceX has already developed two state-of-the-art new launch vehicles, established an impressive launch manifest, and been awarded COTS funding by NASA to demonstrate delivery and return of cargo to the ISS. This book describes how simplicity, low-cost, and reliability can go hand in hand, as promoted in the philosophy of SpaceX. It explains how, by eliminating the traditional layers of internal management and external sub-contractors and keeping the vast majority of manufacturing in house, SpaceX reduces its costs while accelerating decision making and delivery, controls quality, and ensures constant liaison between the design and manufacturing teams.

From the Back Cover 2012 - the year when the first ever privately-developed spacecraft visited the International Space Station. This is the story of how one company is transforming commercial space flight. It describes the extraordinary feats of engineering and human achievement that have resulted in the world's first fully reusable launch vehicles and the prospect of human travel to Mars. SpaceX - The First Ten Years:- explores the philosophy behind the success of SpaceX;- explains the practical management that enables SpaceX to keep it simple, reliable, and affordable;- details the development of the Falcon 1, Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy rockets and the technology of the Merlin engines;- describes the collaboration with NASA;- introduces current SpaceX projects, including the Grasshopper reusable launch vehicle and the Stratolaunch System. SpaceX - The First Ten Years is a portrait of one of the most spectacular spaceflight triumphs of the 21st century, one that is laying the foundation for humanity to become a spacefaring civilization. About the Author Dr. Erik Seedhouse worked as Astronaut Training Consultant for Bigelow Aerospace in 2005, a company for whom he wrote the Spaceflight Participants Flight Surgeon's Manual. He also developed astronaut-training protocols for future spaceflight participants and wrote and edited several chapters of Bigelow Aerospace's Astronaut Training Manual. Erik is a research scientist specializing in environmental life sciences and physiology, the subject in which he obtained his Ph.D. in Physiology while working for the European Space

Agency between 1996 and 1998. In 2009, he was one of the final candidates for selection as an astronaut in the CSA's Astronaut Recruitment Campaign. He is the Training Director for Astronauts for Hire (A4H) and is the Canadian Forces' High Risk Acceleration Training Officer, which means he spins CF pilots in Canada's centrifuge. He is the author of several space exploration titles, and his most recent "Astronauts for Hire" was published in January 2012.