

52nd IAA HISTORY OF ASTRONAUTICS SYMPOSIUM (E4)
Germany's Contribution to Astronautics Post WWII (3A)

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FUTURE IN SPACE – THE PROPRIETARY VISION OF HARRY O. RUPPE

Abstract

Harry O. Ruppe has begun his space science career contacting Hermann Oberth in the early '50s and, after finishing his studies in Berlin, getting immediate support to follow him in USA to work with Wernher von Braun at Redstone Arsenal. Some of his great handbooks in Astronautics are well known and highly appreciated. Here a yet unpublished short manuscript reveals a less known but strong opinion of Harry on the endeavor to develop reusable spacecraft with the current technology of the 20th Century. Some insight shows however that his negative attitude comes presently in support of the unexpected and controversial achievement of Elon Musk with his reusable first stages of the orbital launchers. Harry's paper feeds the everlasting debate on the practicality of the present exhausting space launcher technology