

45th IAA HISTORY OF ASTRONAUTICS SYMPOSIUM (E4)  
Memoirs and Organisational histories (2)

Author: Dr. Stanislav Konyukhov  
Yuzhnoye State Design Office, Ukraine, info@yuzhnoye.com

THE ROLE OF MIKHAIL YANGEL IN SAFEGUARDING OF PEACE ON OUR PLANET  
STANISLAV KONYUKHOV

**Abstract**

October 25, 2011 is the 100th birthday of Mikhail Yangel, an outstanding scientist and designer in the rocketry area, the founder and chief designer of KB Yuzhnoye, member of the Academies of Sciences of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Academician Mikhail Yangel is the founder of fundamentally new trends in scientific researches in the field of space rocketry as well as in the development of space rocketry specimens that at the moment of commissioning had world-level performance characteristics, and a number of their characteristics had no analogs in the world. The Mikhail Yangel's team developed three generations of highly efficient strategic missiles and a number of space systems, which made a considerable contribution to the balance of strategic forces of the opposing parties during the Cold War period. This parity was the ground for acknowledgment of the necessity to stop the arms race and get down to a peaceful coexistence and disarmament. Mikhail Yangel's ideas, his work methods, and technical solutions give us the full right to call him the genius of a space rocket designing thought. Between 1950 and 1970, the world leaders in the development of perfect configurations of launch vehicles and missile systems were Sergey Korolev, Wernher von Braun, and Mikhail Yangel. Due to special secrecy of those times, at the international level Mikhail Yangel is known less than his famous counterparts. Scientists and designers, who were lucky to work with Mikhail Yangel in one team, are trying to inform the world about the life and activity of this great person as well as about his role in safeguarding of peace on the Earth. The report contains information about the Yangel's career in the most difficult times of international relations during the Cold War period, and the key role in struggling to balance strategic weapons, the development of which was the newest and most challengeable scientific and technical task. Titanic efforts and methods, by which that task was solved on the both hemispheres of the Earth, are described. Literally, the solution of the task allowed to save the life of the humankind on our planet. Mikhail Yangel possessed a sense of vision of how the rocketry would develop in the further years. His prospective ideas today help the Yuzhnoye State Design Office team to remain the leader in the space rocket industry of Ukraine.