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NASA - W. EUROPEAN COLLABORATION IN THE POST-APOLLO PROGRAM: WHY IT CAME  
DOWN TO SPACELAB

**Abstract**

This paper will describe the changing shape of NASA's offers to Western Europe to collaborate in the post-Apollo program in the late 1960s to the early 1970s. That offer originally comprised participation in building parts of the Shuttle, and full responsibility for a space tug to ferry men and equipment from LEO to the geostationary orbit. It was reduced in summer 1972 to building Spacelab, a shirt-sleeve research facility that fitted in the Shuttle's cargo bay. Why? For this paper, emphasis will be placed on the fear that a more substantial collaboration would lead to the leakage of important technology to Western Europe. The study is based on extensive primary research in NASA and European archives.