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SPACE EXPO, EUROPE'S FIRST PERMANENT SPACE EXPOSITION

Abstract

This paper will explain the activities of Space Expo as space museum and official visitor's centre of ESA in the Netherlands. ESA-ESTEC, the largest facility of the European Space Agency, is located in Noordwijk, The Netherlands. This year Space Expo celebrates its 25th anniversary. All ESA space missions have their origins at ESA-ESTEC and many European astronauts, including Dutch astronaut André Kuipers, have their workplace here. Space Expo is the official visitors' centre for ESA-ESTEC and Europe's first permanent space exposition. The interactive exhibitions contain authentic space hardware like rocket engines, satellites and even a genuine moon rock. Visitors can find out what it was like for the first men on the Moon, experience the simulated launch of an Ariane rocket 'live', discover the world of satellites with the test models of European space missions and find out all about astronauts and see how they live and work in space. Visitors of Space Expo can also enjoy a ride with the Space Train to visit ESA-ESTEC and enjoy a peek behind the scenes of the real thing.