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History of US Contribution to Astronautics Post WWII (2)

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THE MARS PROJECT 1948 TO 1956
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Abstract

In 1948 Wernher von Braun conceived that he would inspire American interest in space flight by writing a novel about a mission to Mars. The underpinning of this story would be a very careful and detailed work up of the technical aspects. As the novel was being written, while at Fort Bliss, Texas, a technical appendix was assembled with help of six colleagues from Peenemünde. Examined here are some technical aspects of this Mars mission, in particular the evolution of the vehicles and their technical realization. What started as the design of a mission to Mars evolved into the large scale concept of manned space flight, the design of earth to orbit ferry ships, a space station to support orbital assembly of fleet to Mars. The architecture for a Mars mission provided the method for exploration of the Moon. There was a steady evolution of vehicle design and mission configuration until a final expression was presented in 1956.