

Book Review

A New Force at a New Frontier

Kevin Madders, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England, UK, 1997, 604 pp., \$150.00

A New Force at a New Frontier describes European developments in the space field from the beginning to the present time. The author, Kevin Madders, is a law and policy advisor in the telecommunications and space field operating from Brussels. The book reflects his legal background with a heavy interest on political history and legal aspects of the agreements between the European nations cooperating to develop a space program.

The book is organized in five parts. Part 1 describes the genesis of the European space cooperation initiated by Britain and France in the late 1950s in reaction to the initial Soviet and U.S. successes. Part 2 describes the creation of the first European space organizations, the European Launcher Development Organization and the European Space Research Organization, in the early 1960s and their transformation and downfall in the early 1970s. Part 3 describes a fresh start for European space activities with the establishment of the European Space Agency (ESA) in 1975. Part 4 gives an assessment of present-day European space activities, and Part 5 presents a

synopsis and conclusions. A brief look into the next century sees ESA and other European organizations gaining low-Earth-orbit experience on the International Space Station in the next 10 years, a world space organization operating two manned complexes on the moon in 20 years, and the first permanent infrastructure installed on Mars in 30 years.

The book is written from a scholarly viewpoint, and each of its 21 chapters concludes with numerous end-notes elaborating on the text and providing citations for source material. A list of abbreviations defines over 250 acronyms, and a brief glossary explains selected terms used in the book. The book's meticulous description of space developments in Europe establishes it as an authoritative reference on the subject, but its length and hefty price are likely to restrict the reading audience to those who specialize in space policy and international space agreements.

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