

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910451247103321
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Titolo	Reinventing NASA [[electronic resource]] : human space flight, bureaucracy, and politics // Roger Handberg
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Westport, Conn., : Praeger, 2003
ISBN	1-280-34891-7 9786610348916 0-313-01613-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (292 p.)
Disciplina	354.79
Soggetti	Astronautics - Political aspects - United States Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [263]-265) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Illustrations; Preface; Acknowledgments; Abbreviations; 1 NASA and Defining the Dream; 2 In the Beginning; 3 An Imploding Agency: Post-Challenger Blues; 4 Inadvertent Political Catalyst: The Space Station Freedom; 5 Fixing Space Launch; 6 ""Faster, Better, Cheaper?"; 7 Reinventing Government: Efficiency Comes to NASA; 8 Organizational Change as Goal-Directed Behavior; 9 The Future of NASA; Afterword: Columbia and the Future; Appendix: Outlays for Space; Selected References; Index
Sommario/riassunto	From its beginnings, NASA was convinced that its real mission was to create the opportunity for a much different and better society on Earth, namely through human space flight. Pursuit of such a goal has led the agency to persist in certain activities even when they conflict with the wishes of Congress and the President. Recent changes in the international environment, changes that began well before September 11, 2001, have brought the military back into the field of human space flight, a situation that holds certain hazards for NASA since the military is more powerful politically. Dramatic ch