

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910462785603321
Autore	Piantadosi Claude A
Titolo	Mankind beyond Earth [[electronic resource]] : the history, science, and future of human space exploration / / Claude A. Piantadosi
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Columbia University Press, c2012
ISBN	0-231-53103-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (299 p.)
Disciplina	629.4500973
Soggetti	Astronautics - United States - Forecasting Manned space flight - History Electronic books. Outer space Exploration Popular works
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	pt. 1. Hindsight and foresight -- pt. 2. A home away from home -- pt. 3. Where are we going?.
Sommario/riassunto	Seeking to reenergize Americans' passion for the space program, the value of further exploration of the Moon, and the importance of human beings on the final frontier, Claude A. Piantadosi presents a rich history of American space exploration and its major achievements. He emphasizes the importance of reclaiming national command of our manned program and continuing our unmanned space missions, and he stresses the many adventures that still await us in the unfolding universe. Acknowledging space exploration's practical and financial obstacles, Piantadosi challenges us to revitalize American leadership in space exploration in order to reap its scientific bounty. Piantadosi explains why space exploration, a captivating story of ambition, invention, and discovery, is also increasingly difficult and why space experts always seem to disagree. He argues that the future of the space program requires merging the practicalities of exploration with the constraints of human biology. Space science deals with the unknown, and the margin (and budget) for error is small. Lethal near-vacuum conditions, deadly cosmic radiation, microgravity, vast distances, and highly scattered resources remain immense physical problems. To

forge ahead, America needs to develop affordable space transportation and flexible exploration strategies based in sound science. Piantadosi closes with suggestions for accomplishing these goals, combining his healthy skepticism as a scientist with an unshakable belief in space's untapped-and wholly worthwhile-potential.
