

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910616211603321
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Titolo	My Life in Space Exploration / / by Gerhard Haerendel
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2022
ISBN	9783031102868 9783031102851
Edizione	[1st ed. 2022.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (237 pages)
Collana	Springer Biographies, , 2365-0621
Disciplina	523.010924 523.01092
Soggetti	Outer space - Exploration Astronautics Physicists Astronomers Science - History Technology History Space Exploration and Astronautics Biographies of Physicists and Astronomers History of Science History of Technology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. My way into physics -- 2. The assignment -- 3. Diverse paths -- 4. Years of harvest -- 5. Reflection.
Sommario/riassunto	This book tells the inside story of Germany's first contributions to space research by experiments with artificial plasma clouds in space. In this autobiography, Gerhard Haerendel, former director at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, describes his 60 adventurous years in space research. The narrative of exciting events—covering 40 years of rocket and satellite work—is underpinned with accessible accounts of the actual physical phenomena and processes involved. The reader also learns about how the goals set by a visionary

astrophysicist eventually led to one of Germany's first major contributions to space research by the creation of artificial comets in the solar wind. Haerendel's efforts also led to two further satellite programs, one in partnership with Sweden, focusing on the aurora borealis, the other, a national German endeavor, to explore the outer border of the magnetosphere. A further interesting chapter concerns his engagement in the evaluation and restructuring of eastern German Academy institutes after reunification. All readers interested in space research and its history will enjoy sharing the fascinating experiences and dramatic events that accompany the story throughout, even some spectacular failures relating to rocket campaigns.
