

## Editor's Note

The first issue of the year 2016 is coming along with a reorganisation in the newsletter production. As of 2016 "GoTaikonauts!" will be distributed as a PDF and printed brochure but not anymore as an iPad app. This enables us to streamline the publication process and to add to our portfolio the printed version of the newsletter. Our colleagues and partners of the German space magazine "Raumfahrt Concret" support ... page 3

## Quarterly Report

### October - December 2015



#### Launch Events

China continued the quick pace of space launches with in total 10 rockets launched in the fourth quarter, equaling the quarterly launch record set in the fourth quarter of 2014. The annual launch rate of 2015 also equals the record of 19 launches that happened in 2011 (including one failure) and 2012. For the second time, China surpassed the United States in the total number of successful orbital launches, though the U.S. made 20 launches in 2015 it included two failures. ... page 4

## Book Review

### "The Three Body Problem" - author: Liu Cixin

It's been many years since I last read a science fiction novel, my favourite author being Isaac Asimov, especially the Foundation Trilogy, with the intervening years reading being more focused on fiction than science. So it was with a somewhat nostalgic curiosity and hopeful anticipation that I began to read what is being referred to as 'the best selling Chinese science fiction novel' - The Three-Body Problem. First published in Chinese in 2006, and translated by Ken Liu, this first book of a trilogy, was published in English for the first time in 2014. Just as Asimov had won the Hugo Award (for the best science fiction novel published in the previous year) in 1995, Liu achieved the same feat twenty years later, in 2015, so the omens looked good. ... page 27

## Gallery

### CZ-5 and CZ-7 Debuts ...

page 28



## Feature

### Who Said that China is not up to Space Science? including interviews with:

**Prof. Maurizio Falanga**

"I wish science could be a tool, just like sport, to break any political barrier and bring people to work together..." ... page 10

**Prof. John Zarnecki**

"We hope that our institute will become an integral and important part of the Chinese space institutional environment." ... page 12

## Interview

### "One Belt, One Road, One Inmarsat"

including an interview with Rupert Pearce, CEO of Inmarsat

"... supporting President Xi's visionary 'One Belt - One Road' strategic initiative."

What a reception! From Buckingham Palace to Westminster, from Downing Street to Chequers Court (the UK's Prime Minister's countryside house retreat), from the City of London to Manchester City Football Club, and from a drive in the royal golden carriage through the streets of London and a grand royal welcome hosted by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II to casual beer-drinking ... page 14

## Our Point of View

### One Track, Two Stations -

#### Proposal for Cooperation on CSS and ISS

During the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) held last October in Jerusalem, there has been a little-noticed twitter message that was posted by Peter De Selding, a senior space journalist, quoting ESA Director General Johann-Dietrich Wörner as saying he wants China to give up its own space station in favour of joining the ISS. "I told China, we don't need two space stations. How about ISS with China participation?..." page 17

## Our Point of View

### A Foothold on the Moon – But for all Mankind

"Moon Village" – this nebulous term coined by former Head of the German Space Agency DLR, Prof. Dr. Johann-Dietrich Wörner is going around the world since the spring of last year. Prof. Wörner, by profession a civil engineer and with an self-confessed aptitude for constructing, is now Director General of the European Space Agency, but his idea of a "Moon Village" is still with him albeit a bit fuzzy. Prof. Wörner is not shy of talking about concepts before the details are clear. Also, he is not shy of using Germany's biggest tabloid ... page 19

## Reports

**China Manned Space Agency CMSA Presentation at IAC 2015, Jerusalem: Worldwide Scientists Welcome into Modules of the Chinese Space Station CSS!** ... page 21

**Global-V in 2018: Sino-Belgian Satellite to Monitor the Global Biosphere Every Two Days** ... page 23

## Cultural Perspective

### Popular Symbols and Rituals in Space Exploration in China and their Mediation to Soft Power

Following my work Kul'tura Kosmosa which was about the popular culture of space exploration in Russia, I became aware of a similar but new phenomenon in China. Some of the advertising is shown in Figure 1 from the Shanghai Metro in 2012, but I needed to find some way of understanding what was going on inside this image, what was there and what lay behind it. ... page 24