



China in Space - The Great Leap Forward

A book review by Jacqueline Myrrhe

Reading GoTaikonauts! is good – reading Brian Harvey is better.

China's space programme became much more transparent and accessible over the last decade. But still, there is no other and in particular no better standard work about China's efforts in space than "China in Space - The Great Leap Forward" by Irish space author and analyst Brian Harvey.

This comprehensive compendium was published as the second edition at the end of last year. Even for owners of the first edition it makes sense to get the updated book, as much has happened recently and Brian Harvey has stayed on top of those dynamic developments.

No wonder that the first chapter is dedicated to the milestone lunar mission, Chang'e 4. Maybe the biggest value being the chapters about the historical developments which Harvey has traced as a long-time observer and analysed and assembled meticulously for this publication. Not much knowledge about those early beginnings is out there. A look into the book explains it all. But Harvey also covers all currently existing space programmes, from Earth observation, to telecommunications to space science and the manned space flight activities. The author



is also not shy in shedding some light on the military applications, about which it is still difficult to get access to reliable information through public content.

All chapters are illustrated with photos and mission tables covering the different fields. Very useful references are the glossary at the end of the book, the timeline of key dates in China's space programmes, and a detailed list of all Chinese space launches. Extremely useful too are the old-fashioned bibliography

and index. Thanks for putting the effort into this indispensable tool for reading and studying.

This complete and thorough description of Chinese space activities makes the book interesting for the person with a general interest in the subject but also for professionals who need reliable information. Most of all, this book is strongly recommended to all those newly-arrived young authors who find it fanciful to write about China's space programme on the web, but lack the knowledge and the understanding of the context. They can be helped – for the reasonable price of around 35 Euros only.

Education and knowledge about China in Space has never been more affordable and accessible.

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