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Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Heinz Stoewer, M.Sc. Drachenfelsstr.9 D - 53757 St.Augustin/Bonn Germany e-mail: heinzstoewer@spaceassociates.net



- 1962 1971 advanced degrees in Technical Physics, Economics and Systems Management from German and US Universities
- 1962 Boelkow KG, Munich, today EADS Astrium, space project engineer/group leader
- 1967 MDAC, USA, today Boeing, various systems and project management positions on "post Apollo" and advanced space transportation projects
- 1973 European Space Agency, ESA at its Technical Centre ESTEC, first Programme Manager Spacelab, building Europe's foundations in "manned space";
 1978 Founder of ESA's Systems Engineering and Programmatics Department with System Studies, System Integration, Programmatics and Technology R&D Divisions
- 1986 Delft University of Technology, first Professor/Chair for Space Systems Engineering; Founding Director internat. postgraduate "SpaceTech" Master programme (part-time)
- 1990 Managing Director national and international programmes German Space Agency (DARA GmbH); member/chair of various technical and policy boards, e.g. ESA Council and EO/MET Programme Board, CEAS, European Union Space Advisory Group, et al
- 1995 Founder/President Space Associates GmbH, an international network based company with focus upon space, systems engineering, project management and education activities
- Current functions and positions include:
 - Member governing boards of the OHB AG, the third largest European Space
 Prime Contractor, and of the Space Research Organization (SRON), Netherlands
 - Vice chair Dutch Aerospace Establishment (NLR) Systems and Applications Advisory Committee
 - Member Advisory Board Dutch National Space Agency (NSO)
 - Scientific Advisor Systems Engineering EADS, France and Germany
 - Member EADS Astrium and EADS Cassidian Executive training Steering Boards and Chair of associated Project Review Boards
 - Distinguished Visiting Scientist NASA JPL, USA
 - Fellow and Past President International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE)
 - Past member German Aerospace Society (DGLR) Senate and Board of Trustees of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA)
 - International Advisor Systems Engineering Doctoral Centre, Loughborough University, UK
 - Visiting professor/lecturer at several international universities
- Publications and honours:
 - > 90 scientific/technical publications on space and engineering subjects
 - Editor/co-editor/contributor for several books
 - Editorial boards international scientific, technical & policy journals
 - Member Honorary Council "SpaceTech" and Honorary Member Leonardo da Vinci student association, TU Delft
 - National and international honours, amongst which NASA Administrator Public and Special Service Awards; German Parliament (Bundesrat-Senate) Medal