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Rocket Science by Alfred J. Zaehring and Steve Whitfield

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ENERGY and economics are "the two most cogent aspects of rocket science," say Alfred Zaehring, a rocket engineer with first-hand experience of the US space programme, and Steve Whitfield. They admit their book began simply as a look at these two elements. Rocket Science also offers large amounts of additional information about the space age in text, tables and illustration, echoing the tenor of other titles in Apogee's growing series on space.

Book Details

Rocket Science

by Alfred J. Zaehring and Steve Whitfield

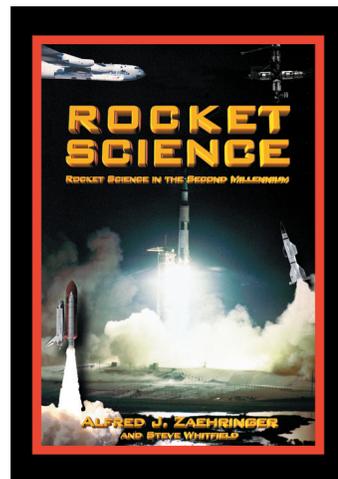
Apogee Books

\$20.95/£15.95

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It is a shame that the authors did not stick to their original objective more rigorously; much of what is included beyond the interesting angles on energy and economics is already widely available in other publications and, increasingly, on the web. Is there really a need for a whole chapter on human space flight - a topic that has received great attention over the years? And there is a feeling of haste, if not in the writing, then certainly in the checking and editing: the opening paragraph in the section devoted to the UK's rocket programme, for example, has many inaccuracies.

That said, this attractive book will appeal to many. It is another enticing, wide-ranging, copiously referenced introduction to the story of (mostly US) space exploration. It will satisfy some enthusiasts, whet the appetites of many newcomers to the subject, but disappoint those who might have expected a tighter and more authoritative account.



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