



Humans in Space

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The path to become an astronaut - a short personal story

Astronaut categories

Astronauts - past and present waves

Marco Sieber 

A few guidelines and a recipe for success in space, and elsewhere

The dream is alive



I always had a passion for the sky



I became an astronomer at the Geneva Observatory, with frequent stays at the Gornergrat or Jungfrau high altitude stations

also at La Silla Observatory, Chile, for work on the southern sky



I also became a
pilot in a ground
attack squadron of
the Swiss Air
Force on Hawker
Hunter





A nice airplane and a good life lesson

Selection in the first group of ESA astronauts in 1978
Taking an opportunity, and the attractivity of a personal challenge



Two of us joined the NASA astronaut class of 1980
Only 2 women out of 20 astronauts



Joining the Space Shuttle program in the US
135 missions in 30 years (1981–2011)





Shuttle training in Houston,
and flight software testing in “SAIL”



Flying high performance jets has always been part of astronaut training at NASA - also a nice exclusive way to travel !

Astronaut categories

Professional (career) Agency astronauts →



Professional Private astronauts →



Space Tourists →



Analog astronauts, with “Space missions” on Earth

A mix of Agency astronauts and a space "Tourist" Anousheh Ansari in 2006

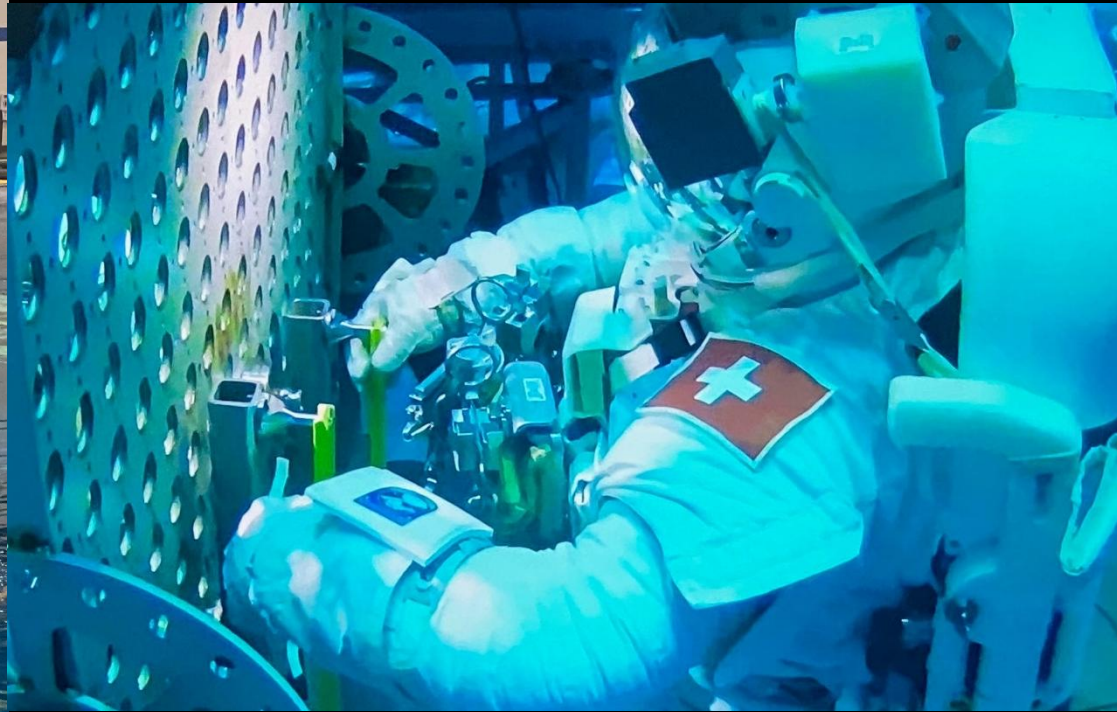
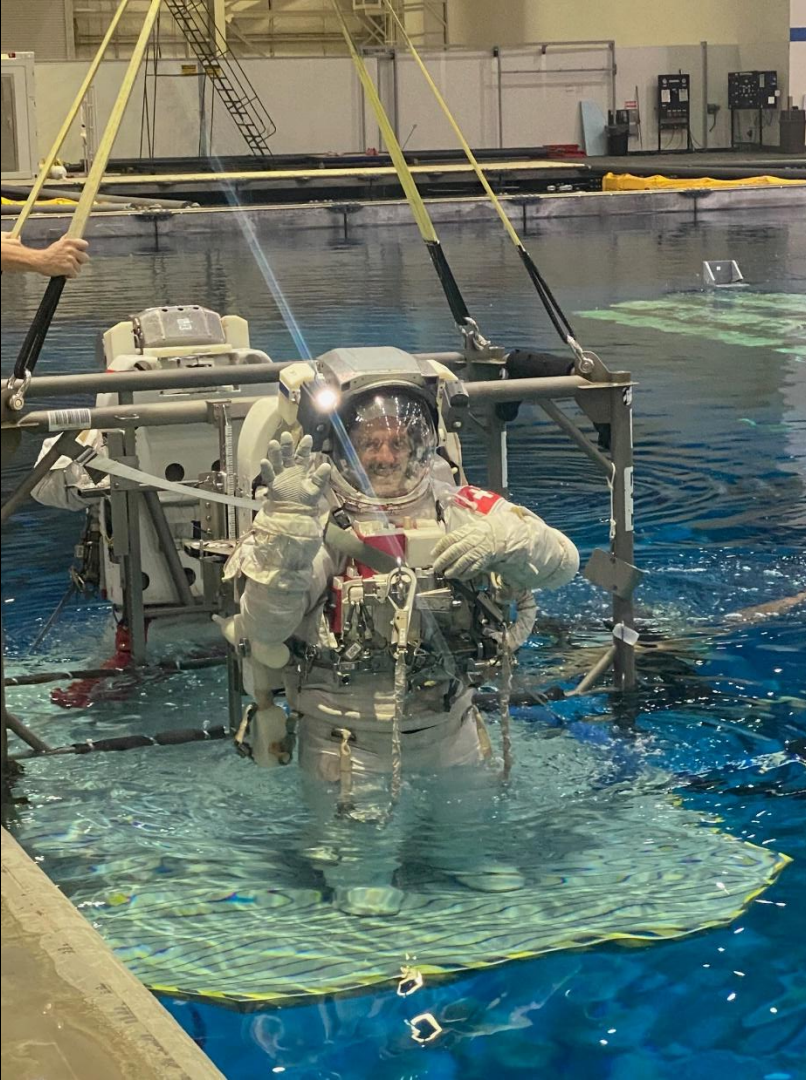




The 2022 class of ESA astronauts
5 career astronauts, 11 reserve astronauts, 1 “parastronaut”



I got a successor !
Career Swiss/ESA Astronaut Marco Sieber, a medical doctor from Bern
Class of 2022



Marco's first suited "spacewalk" in the NBL
(Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory),
Houston, Texas, August 2nd, 2024

Our new spaceman is doing well, no worries!
ISS in 2028 or 2009, then Moon, maybe!



The 2026 Class of NASA astronauts, 6 women out of 10 !

Recipe for success, in spaceflight and elsewhere



- Set clear objectives and define priorities.
- Work as a team at all levels, in a spirit of total trust and mutual respect.
- Do a thorough preparation for mission execution, with attention to details, and always be ready to face adversity - prepare and train plans B, C, D, etc. pre-mission!
- Maintain a strict operational discipline - carefully develop procedures and checklists, and use them!
- Train, train, train.... Never stop!
- Have fun!

The dream is alive !

