



Michael U. Rudolphi

Research Scientist

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Center



BIO:

Michael U. Rudolphi, a native of Illinois, has served in many senior leadership positions with The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, including Project Manager, Propulsion Manager, and Engineering Director. He retired from NASA and was employed by Alliant Techsystems as Deputy General Manager and Vice President for NASA propulsion. He shared responsibility for the development of the next generation five-segment solid rocket booster and the space shuttle boosters, the world's largest and only human-rated solid rocket boosters.

He has both a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree and a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee.

He began his career as a design engineer for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in Knoxville. He later became a field-engineering manager for the TVA, where he managed the work of managers, engineers, and technicians in support of the construction of a two-unit nuclear power plant.

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Mr. Rudolphi joined NASA in October 1988 as a facility manager for the Advanced Solid Rocket Motor Project in Iuka, Mississippi, managing the design, construction, and operation of an ultra-modern rocket manufacturing facility.

Mr. Rudolphi accepted a special assignment to the Solid Rocket Booster Project (SRB) to manage the resident office at the contractor plant at Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Florida. He served as chief engineer and project manager for the SRB Project. He achieved the rank of Senior Executive Service (SES) for this position. He was later selected as the project manager for the Reusable Solid Rocket Motor Project. As manager of this project, he was responsible for the design, manufacture, and flight performance of the solid rocket motors used on NASA's Space Shuttle.

Mr. Rudolphi served as NASA senior representative in Lufkin, Texas, in the Space Shuttle Columbia Recovery efforts. He was responsible for coordinating the work of multiple local, state, and federal agencies in the field collection of the Space Shuttle Columbia.

During Return to Flight of the Space Shuttle following the Columbia accident, Mr. Rudolphi served as the Propulsion Manager for Marshall Space Flight Center. He was accountable for the five propulsion projects of the space shuttle program. In 2005 he assumed the job of Engineering Director for the Marshall Space Flight center. He was responsible for all engineering of the center, which designed, built, tested, and operated human rated space systems.

Special honors and awards he has received include five NASA Exceptional Achievement Medals, acceptance into the Senior Executive Fellowship Program at Harvard University, and induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame at the University of Tennessee in Martin, Tennessee.