

British Secret Projects 5: Britain's Space Shuttle

Daniel Sharp

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Daniel Sharp : British Secret Projects 5: Britain's Space Shuttle before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised British Secret Projects 5: Britain's Space Shuttle:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Another Advanced Concept killed by Lack of National WillBy JCALThe depth and scope of coverage of this volume is impressive. Far from just coverage of MUSTARD (Britain's Space Shuttle.) and it's direct antecedents there is coverage of the American and European industry along with a study of hypersonics. (The archival BAC evaluation of the STS is also great reading.)Readers cognizant of Sandy's White Paper and the rationalization of the British aircraft industry will understand some of the back stories within the volume. Overall there is plenty of great material covering a broad spectrum of design concepts for reusable space vehicles ranging from the concepts of Eugen Sänger to HOTOL.As for the volume itself, there are plenty of OEM 3 view and brochure drawings along with excellent color illustrations.Highly Recommended1 of 1 people found the

following review helpful. What Could Have Been, But Wasn't. By Zane R. Nobbs Well researched and documented history of British plans for a space program with the ultimate goal of a British space shuttle. Unfortunately, this has yet to materialize. Many well laid strategies were pursued for this objective, but an overly cautious government and tight purse strings seem to have strangled such programs right out of the gate. A good read, but a sad ending. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very nice addition to any aerospace library By Jared A. Zichek Brilliant book, many new and spectacular designs I've never seen before. The high quality color CG impressions were a nice bonus. As to the quality of the book itself - nice glossy pages, color throughout, high quality hardcover. First class effort!

Even as America and Russia stepped up their efforts in the early 1960s to design ever faster bombers and put men and equipment into space, Britain quietly set to work devising its own hypersonic aircraft and manned space vehicles. British Secret Projects 5: Britain's Space Shuttle tells the story of how, from 1963 to 1966, English Electric/BAC's Preston works secretly led the world in re-useable spacecraft design. A huge variety of designs formed the P.42 project with more than 100 proposals for hypersonic interceptors, bombers, reconnaissance aircraft, satellite launchers, spacecraft launchers, orbital spy planes and satellite killers. The end result was the 'Multi-Unit Space Transport And Recovery Device' (MUSTARD), which pre-dated the USA's Space Shuttle program by six years. Based on unique access to the original project drawings, photographs, archives and interviews with surviving members of the design team, British Secret Projects 5: Britain's Space Shuttle offers a unique insight into this hitherto little-known chapter in the secret history of the UK manned space flight program.

"This is an impressively detailed tome of this top secret effort to reach space." (Frank Landrus IPMS/USA 2017-02-23) "Fans of space programs and what-if scenarios will be enthralled with the details of Britain's shuttle. Anyone with plans to build some of the proposed vehicles will appreciate the plans and illustrations." (FineScale Modeler 2017-03-22) From the Back Cover When the team behind the supersonic English Electric Lightning and ill-fated TSR2 set to work to assess the feasibility of high-speed aircraft and reusable spacecraft in 1963, the result would be dozens of innovative designs for air and space travel, based on the state-of-the-art technology and years ahead of their time. Under the project heading P.42 a huge variety of designs were studied, ranging from gigantic delta-wing launchers to small three-man spaceplanes, manned rocket boosters and potential TSR2 replacements capable of Mach 4. As the project evolved, it became clear that a reusable space vehicle was required and so the team, based at Warton, Lancashire, created the Multi-Unit Space Transport And Recovery Device--MUSTARD. This was a vertical-launch orbiter with two boosters designed to carry out its mission in orbit and glide back to base-- a 'Space Shuttle', developed years before the Americans began to work on theirs. And yet this remarkable technological achievement went almost unnoticed. Doubters within the Ministry of Aviation and the Royal Aircraft Establishment made sure the project would never reach production and much of the work carried out at Warton remained classified for decades. Now author Dan Sharp has been given exclusive access to drawings and documents that have not seen the light of day for half a century, as well as interviewing members of the original design team. The result is British Secret Projects 5: Britain's Space Shuttle, a comprehensive history that reveals one of Britain's best kept military secrets? how it once led the world in manned spacecraft design. Dan Sharp's gripping story of the P.42 and MUSTARD projects is accompanied by hundred of period drawings, presented in their original unaltered form, as well as color profiles, artist illustrations and specifications. Together they provide a compelling glimpse into Britain's lead in air and space technology in the 1960s, and what might have been. About the Author Daniel Sharp has worked as a professional writer, journalist and editor since 1998. He studied history at the University of Liverpool and later began researching primary source material as a hobby. His historical work to date has focused on British space projects of the 1960s and German 'secret projects' of WWII. He lives in Nottinghamshire with his wife and two children.