

SPEAKER'S BIOGRAPHY

Christer Fuglesang (Sweden)



European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut

Personal data

Born 18 March 1957 in Stockholm, Sweden. Married to the former Elisabeth Walldie. They have three children. Enjoys sports, sailing, skiing, frisbee, games and reading.

Education

Graduated from Bromma Gymnasium, Stockholm in 1975 and received a Master of Science degree (Engineering Physics) from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm in 1981. Received a Doctorate in Experimental Particle Physics in 1987 and became a Docent in Particle Physics in 1991 at the University of Stockholm. He was appointed Affiliated Professor at KTH in 2006.

Special honours

Honorary Doctorate from Umeå University, Sweden (1999). Honorary Doctorate from the University of Nova Gorica, Slovenia (2007). NASA Space Flight Medal (2007), H.M. The King's Medal (Stockholm, 2007).

Experience

As a graduate student, Fuglesang worked at CERN (European Research Centre on Particle Physics) in Geneva on the UA5 experiment, which studied proton-antiproton collisions. In 1988 he became a Fellow of CERN, where he worked on the CPLEAR experiment studying the subtle CP-violation of Kaon-particles. After a year he became a Senior Fellow and head of the particle identification subdetector. In November 1990, Fuglesang obtained a position at the Manne Siegbahn Institute of Physics, Stockholm but remained stationed at CERN for another year working towards the new Large Hadron Collider (LHC) project. Since 1980, (when stationed in Sweden) Fuglesang taught mathematics at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH).

In May 1992, Fuglesang was selected to join the Astronaut Corps of ESA based at the European Astronaut Centre (EAC) in Cologne, Germany.

In 1992 he received an introductory training programme at EAC and a four-week training programme at TsPK (Cosmonaut Training Centre) in Star City, Russia, with a view to future ESA-Russian collaboration on the Mir Space Station. In July 1993 he completed basic training at EAC.

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In May 1993, Fuglesang and fellow ESA astronaut, Thomas Reiter, of Germany, were selected for the Euromir 95 mission and commenced training at TsPK (Moscow) in preparation for their onboard engineer tasks, extra-vehicular activities (spacewalks) and operation of the Soyuz spacecraft. The Euromir 95 experiment training was organised and mainly carried out at EAC.

On 17 March 1995 he was selected as member of Crew 2 for the Euromir 95 mission, joining Genadi Manakov and Pavel Vinogradov. During the mission, which lasted from 3 September to 29 February 1996, Fuglesang was the prime Crew Interface Coordinator (CIC). From the Russian Mission Control Centre (TsUP) in Kaliningrad, he was the main contact with ESA astronaut Thomas Reiter in Mir, and acted as coordinator between Mir and the Euromir 95 Payloads Operations Control Centre, located in Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany, and the project management.

Between March and June 1996, he underwent specialised training in TsPK on Soyuz operations for de-docking, atmospheric re-entry and landing.

Christer Fuglesang entered the Mission Specialist Class at NASA/Johnson Space Center, Houston, in August 1996 and qualified for flight assignment as a Mission Specialist in April 1998.

From May to October 1998, he resumed training at TsPK on Soyuz-TM spacecraft operations for de-docking, atmospheric re-entry and landing. He was awarded the Russian 'Soyuz Return Commander' certificate, which qualifies him to command a three-person Soyuz capsule on its return from space.

In October 1998 he returned to NASA-JSC and was assigned to technical duties in the Astronaut Office Station Operations System Branch on Russian Transfer Vehicles (i.e. Soyuz and Progress). Later he worked as prime Increment Crew Support Astronaut for the Expedition Corps of the 2nd International Space Station increment crew. He has most recently worked with upcoming payloads for ISS.

Christer Fuglesang has continued with some scientific work and was involved with the SilEye experiment which investigated light flashes in astronauts eyes on Mir between 1995 and 1999. This work is continuing on ISS with the Alteino detector, launched in 2002 and the ALTEA apparatus scheduled to fly in 2005. He has also initiated the DESIRE Project to simulate and estimate the radiation environment inside ISS. In November 2006 Fuglesang was appointed affiliated professor at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH).

In February 2002, Fuglesang was assigned as a Mission Specialist to the STS-116 Space Shuttle mission to the International Space Station.

Spaceflight experience

From 9 to 22 December 2006, Christer Fuglesang flew as Mission Specialist on board Space Shuttle Discovery for flight STS-116 to the International Space Station. He became the first Swedish astronaut to fly in space. During his mission, named Celsius, Fuglesang participated in two spacewalks, or Extra Vehicular Activities (EVAs), to attach new hardware to the Space Station and to reconfigure the Station's electrical power system. He was later assigned to participate in an extra unscheduled spacewalk to help free the Station's P6 solar array which had become jammed during retraction. His combined EVA time is 18 hours 14 minutes.

Current assignment

Christer Fuglesang is currently providing support activities to ESA and NASA for the International Space Station.