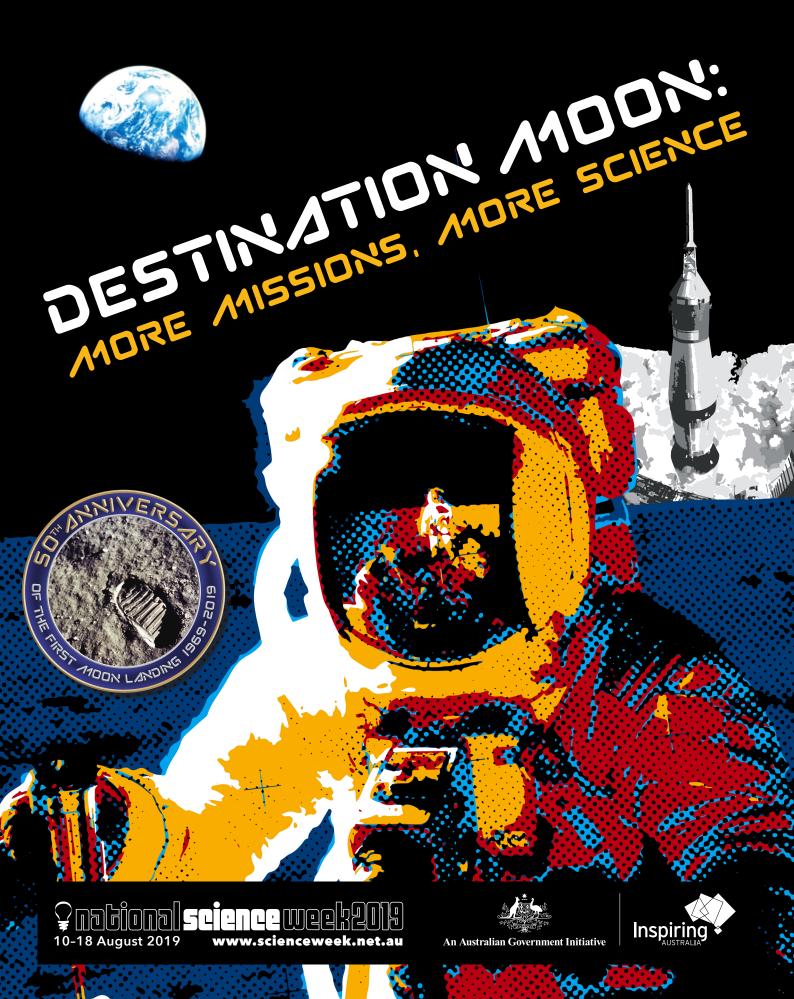
Australia's history in space

-the story of Australia's contribution to space exploration

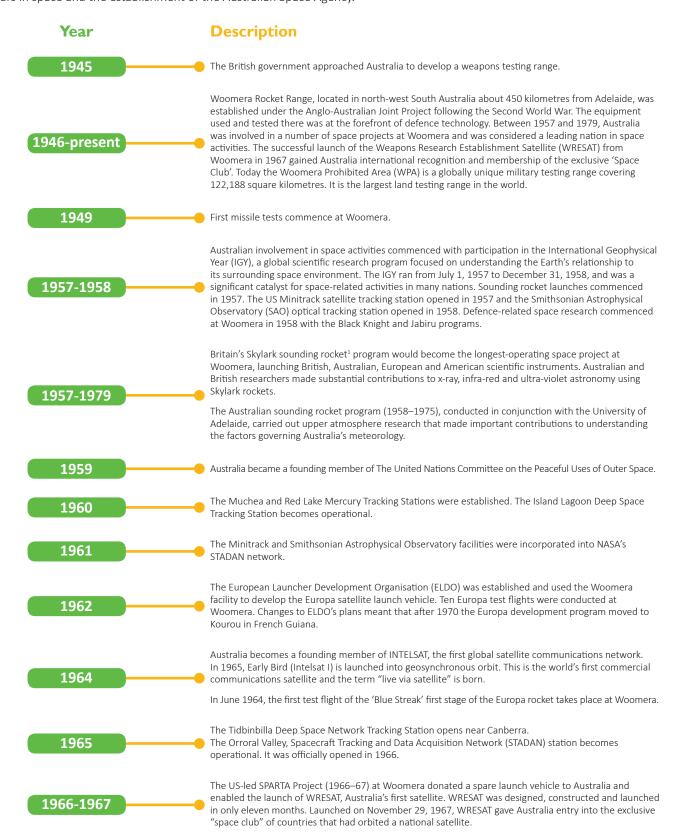




Australia's history in space

The exploration of space was seen as the greatest adventure of the twentieth century and Australia has played a major part in it.

The information below tells the story of Australia's involvement with space activities from the earliest exploits to the latest Australian endeavours in space and the establishment of the Australian Space Agency.



¹ A sounding rocket, sometimes called a research rocket, is an instrument-carrying rocket, designed to take measurements and perform scientific experiments during its sub-orbital flight. Wikipedia

Year	Description
1966	The first Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC) Satellite Earth Station opens at Carnarvon WA, providing the first direct satellite broadcast between Australia and the UK.
	The Cooby Creek Tracking Station opens and Red Lake Tracking Station closes down.
	WRESAT, Australia's first satellite is launched. The Honeysuckle Creek, Apollo Tracking Station opens.
1967	 Australian-born Dr Philip K Chapman is selected as an Apollo scientist-astronaut, but leaves NASA before making a spaceflight.
1969	At 12.56 pm on 21 July 1969 Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST), mankind took its 'one giant leap' and 600 million people watched as Neil Armstrong walked on the Moon. The Parkes radio telescope famously supported receiving the television signals on that momentous day. Although many people think the Parkes telescope was the only station receiving the signal, it was the 26-metre antenna at NASA's Honeysuckle Creek Space Tracking Station near Canberra that received the initial TV pictures from the Moon and Neil Armstrong's first steps on the lunar surface.
	The Joint Defence Facility Nurrungar commences operation near Woomera providing early warning of nuclear missile launches.
	First test launch of Britain's Black Arrow satellite launch vehicle.
1968	WRESAT, Australia's first satellite, completed 642 orbits and transmitted scientific information for 73 of these to tracking and research stations around the world. It re-entered the Earth's atmosphere and burned up on 10 January 1968 over the Atlantic Ocean west of Ireland.
	The Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap commences operation near Alice Springs, providing signals intelligence.
1970	The Australis-OSCAR 5 amateur radio satellite is launched, last ELDO launch and the Cooby Creek Tracking Station closes.
1971	ELDO withdraws from Australia.
13/1	The last British Black Arrow rocket launches the Prospero satellite from Woomera.
1972	—— The Island Lagoon Tracking Station closes down.
1974	—— The Honeysuckle Creek Tracking Station transferred to the Tidbinbilla Deep Space Network.
1975	The Australian sounding rocket program ends.
	The Carnarvon Tracking Station closes down.
1978	The Weapons Research Establishment (WRE), which had managed the Woomera Range since 1955, ceases to exist as an organisation.
	The Skylark sounding rocket program at Woomera closes down. Australia's Landsat station opens. The Landsat remote sensing program is a joint project of NASA and the US Geological Survey. It has been studying the Earth's surface from space since 1972.
1979	The first Australian Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) program is conducted at the Parkes radio telescope. The search for extraterrestrial intelligence is a collective term for scientific searches for evidence of intelligent extraterrestrial life. For example, it monitors electromagnetic radiation for signs of transmissions from civilizations on other planets.
	The Anglo-Australian Joint project officially ceases.
1980	The Starlab project commences.
	First Australian Space Industry Symposium is held.
1981	Aussat is established as Australia's satellite telephone and video via satellite service provider.
1501	The Honeysuckle Creek Tracking Station closes.
1984	Australian-born Dr Paul Scully-Power flies on space shuttle mission STS 41G.
1304	The CSIRO Office of Space Science and Applications is established.
	The Madigan Report, "A Space Policy for Australia" advocates the introduction of an Australian space agency.
1985	 Aussat 1 and Aussat 2 are launched. The Australian-developed Aggregation of Red Cells (ARC) experiment makes first flight on space shuttle mission STS 51C.

Year	Description
1986	The Australian Space Board and the first National Space Program are established, to support the development of an Australian space industry.
1987	The Australian Space Office is established and Aussat 3 is launched.
1988	The first Ausroc 1 student rocket is launched by the Australian Space Research Institute.
1989	The Cole Report on Australian space science is produced. Australia joins the COSPAS-SARSAT network—a satellite-aided search and rescue initiative.
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1991	The European Space Agency launches the European remote sensing satellite ERS-1. Its Along Track Scanning Radiometer (ATSR) includes components from Australia. The ATSR was designed to observing global sea surface temperature from space to the very high levels of accuracy.
4002	The Australian designed and built Endeavour space telescope flies on the STS 42 Space Shuttle mission.
1992	The Australian Space Industry Chamber of Commerce is established.
1993	First successful scramjet engine test by University of Queensland. A scramjet (Supersonic Combustion Ramjet) is a special type of rocket engine that takes the oxygen it needs for fuel combustion from the atmosphere around the vehicle, instead of from a tank onboard. This makes the launcher smaller, lighter and faster.
	Project Phoenix SETI search commences at Parkes.
1995	The Endeavour space telescope has its second flight on STS 67.
	ERS 2 launched with ATSR 2, including Australian components.
1000	Australian-born astronaut, Dr Andy Thomas, makes his first spaceflight on STS 77.
1996	Australian Space Office and National Space Program terminated.
1998	Australian Space Act and the Space Licensing and Safety Office (SLASO) is established.
1998	Andy Thomas' second mission, STS 89 to Mir Space Station. Thomas completed 141 days in orbit, retuning to Earth on STS 91 in 1999.
	The first HyShot scramjet test flight is launched.
2001	The Australian Centre for Astrobiology is established. Andy Thomas makes his third flight on STS 102.
	Australian designed FedSAT (Federation Satellite) technology demonstrator satellite is launched by Japan.
2002	Envisat, with the Advanced Along Track Scanning Radiometer, including Australian components, launched by the European Space Agency.
2003	The Australian Government Space Engagement Policy Framework is released.
2005	"Space, a Priority for Australia" report is released, supporting creation of an Australian space agency.
2003	Andy Thomas makes his fourth flight on STS 114.
2006	The Advanced Instrumentation Technology Centre (AITC) of the ANU opens at Mt. Stromlo, Canberra.
2007	FedSAT ceases operation.
	The Australian Space Research Program (ASRP) commences, funding space education and industry development projects.
2009	First Hypersonic International Flight Research Experimentation (HIFIRE) flight, a collaboration on hypersonic flight research between the Australian Department of Defence and the US Air Force. Hypersonic flight refers to flight at speeds above Mach 5 (five times the speed of sound).
2010	Japan's Hayabusa asteroid sample return capsule lands at Woomera.
2013	Australia's Satellite Utilisation Policy released. ASRP terminated.

Year	Description
2017	SIAA Space White Paper released. It argues that the development of a mature and innovative Australian space sector and a level of sovereign space capability underpinned by world class space science and technology should become an urgent national priority.
	The first Australian Cubesats are launched. They were built by the universities of Sydney, New South Wales and South Australia.
2017	A review of Australia's space industry capability is announced.
2017	The Australian Government announces it will form an Australian Space Agency during the 2017 International Astronautical Congress in Adelaide.
2018	The 'Review of Australia's Space Industry Capability – Report From the Expert Reference Group' is released.
2018	The Australian Space Agency commences operations on 1 July 2018.
2018	The CSIRO launches a report — 'Space: A Roadmap for unlocking future growth opportunities for Australia' — that highlights Australia's unique strengths and geographic advantages to increase Australia's share of the international space sector.
2018	The Australian National University (ANU) and Tohoku University in Japan find a new way of dealing with space junk using a new type of satellite powered by superheated gas.
2018	The ANU Institute for Space, InSpace, is established to bring together technology, science and law research and focus on cross-disciplinary projects to support Australian space business development.
2019	The Australian Space Agency works towards establishing its headquarters in Adelaide.
2019	The Australian Space Agency supports a range of communication and inspiration activities.
2019	Australia celebrates the 50 th anniversary of the Apollo Moon landing

Sources: Dougherty, Kerrie. 2017. Australia in Space: A History of a Nation's Involvement, ATF Press: Adelaide, South Australia and Wikipedia.

