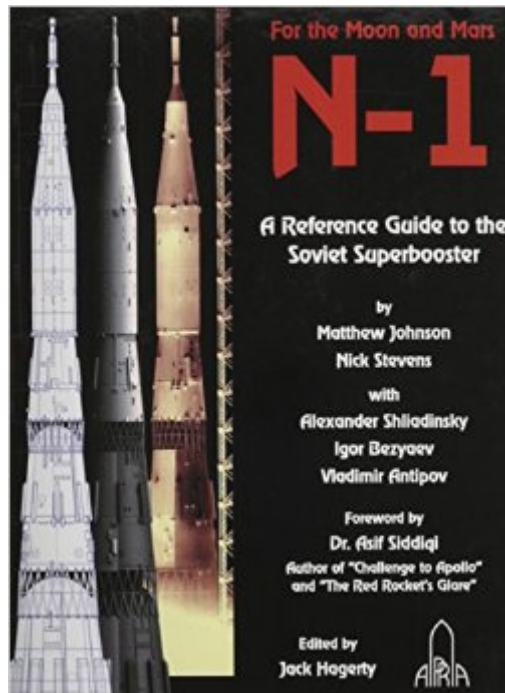


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N-1: For The Moon And Mars A Guide To The Soviet Superbooster (English And Russian Edition)



Synopsis

Three years in the making by an international team of experts in Russia, England and the US, This gorgeous 235 page, full color, hardcover volume contains the complete history of the N-1 from its origins as a booster for missions to Mars and Venus to the abrupt change with a directive from the highest levels of Soviet government to beat the Americans to the moon!

Book Information

Hardcover: 235 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (24 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Let's discuss the issues with N-1: For the Moon and Mars first, then we'll discuss why I still gave it 5 stars. Other reviewers note that this book has production problems, including blank pages skipped in layout. It also looks as if the text had been taken directly from Microsoft Word or some other such word processor without correcting minor glitches, of which there are several. The first part of a paragraph is missing on page 73, for example, though the subject matter of that paragraph is covered elsewhere in the book. And yes, there are a lot of CAD drawings and not so many photos, but the reason is that the intended audience is modelers and model rocketeers. But the descriptions do not really make that clear. Finally, there isn't a whole lot about the politics and blow-by-blow decisions surrounding the booster, though other books already cover the Soviet lunar program. My response is, so what. This is a badly needed reference book and seems to be the first in English dedicated to the ill-fated Soviet moon rocket, the competitor to the US Saturn V. It is of enough importance that the well known researcher on Soviet space topics, Asif Siddiqi, wrote the foreword. The coauthor Alexander Shliadinsky was one of the first to make detailed technical drawings of the N-1 over 20 years ago, and his (still) impressive 1993 drawing is reproduced. That one rocked the space research community when it appeared in Western publications 20 years ago, such as Quest,

The History of Spaceflight Quarterly. He updated the drawings in 2010, and those appear here too. The N-1 program was kept secret, and much documentation and evidence was destroyed after the decision came to end the program in 1974 after four unsuccessful launches.

First of all, "N-1: For the Moon and Mars" is an outstanding reference work on many aspects of the Soviet Union's enormous, long-secret super booster that, for a while, seemed destined to put cosmonauts on the moon--albeit considerably after the U.S. Apollo landings. What "N-1: For the Moon and Mars" is NOT is the definitive book on the subject. However, it may be as good as space enthusiasts can expect to get. When Sergei Korolev, Chief Designer of the early Soviet space program and principal architect of the N-1, died in a botched surgical procedure at the height of the Moon race, his arch-rival Valentin Glushko succeeded him as head of Design Bureau OKB-1. Glushko's first act was to cancel the N-1. He ordered the destruction of all hardware, records, media and documentation. Nevertheless, a small amount of material survived in private files despite Glushko's order. Much of it is in this book. But, sadly, many specifics of the programmatic and development histories, and the fascinating engineering details of the huge rocket, are forever lost. Thus the definitive story of the N-1 may never be written. With that said, "N-1: For the Moon and Mars" is chock-full of information I've never before seen in print. Given the paucity of primary sources, much of it concentrates on the observable external configuration of the rocket, and on the slight differences among the four versions that flew (none successfully) and the fifth that was undergoing fueling tests on the pad when Glushko pulled the plug. It's kind of a "modeler's handbook." As such, it scrimps (in a relative sense only) in describing the N-1's internal components and their functions, and on the day-by-day development history.

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