

A short history of Rocketry



300-400BC

Archytas a Greek scientist built a steam powered pigeon capable of traveling about 200 meters.



50AD

Heron from Alexandria invented the first steam engine, the aeolipile or "wind ball". His design was a sealed caldron of water was placed over a heat source. As the water boiled, steam rose into the pipes and into the hollow sphere. The steam escaped from two bent outlet tubes on the ball, resulting in rotation of the ball.



1232

China. Rockets may have been used as early as 1232 when reports appeared describing fire arrows and 'iron pots' that could be heard for 5 leagues (25 km, or 15 miles) when they exploded upon impact, causing devastation for a radius of 600 meters (2,000 feet), apparently due to shrapnel.



1687

Sir Isaac Newton publishes his book Principia, which contains his three laws of motion and lays the scientific foundations for modern rocketry.



1897-1903

Konstantin Tsiolkovsky produced his famous Rocket Equation and calculated the required velocity to orbit the earth. Konstantin is known as the father of modern rocketry.



1926

Dr. Robert Hutchings Goddard (1882–1945) is considered the father of modern rocket propulsion. He launched the first liquid fueled rocket in May of 1926.



1942

Dr. Wernher von Braun (1912–1977) was one of the most important rocket developers and champions of space exploration in the twentieth century. He helped develop the V2 rocket.



1969

NASA lands the first Astronauts on the Moon.



1981

Launch of the first Space Shuttle (STS) Missions continue until 2011.



Currently there are many launch system providers, both government and private. The field of rocketry has never been more active and dynamic.