

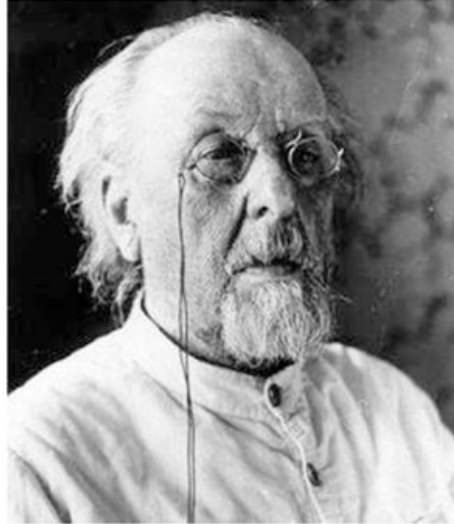


From the Annals of the World History

Konstantin Tsiolkovsky

17 September 1857 - 19 September 1935

Konstantin Eduardovich Tsiolkovsky was an early pioneer in astronautics theory though he spent most of his life in a simple log cabin outside of Moscow. Though he was born even before the American Civil War he theorized about space travel and rocket propulsion. He is considered to the '**father of spaceflight**'. He also believed that the colonization of space would lead to the perfection of the human race. During his life time he published over 500 works related to space travel including some science fiction novels. His theories included rocket boosters, multistage rockets and space stations. There is a crater on the Moon named after the Russian scientist called the Tsiolkovsky Crater.



Konstantin Eduardovich Tsiolkovsky was an Imperial Russian and Soviet rocket scientist and pioneer of the astronautic theory. Along with his followers the German Hermann Oberth and the American Robert H. Goddard, he is considered to be one of the founding fathers of rocketry and astronautics. His works later inspired leading Soviet rocket engineers such as Sergey Korolyov and Valentin Glushko and contributed to the early success of the Soviet space program.

He was born in Izhevskoye (now in Spassky District, Ryazan Oblast), in the Russian Empire, to a middle-class family. His father, Edward Tsiolkovsky (in Polish: Ciołkowski), was Polish; his mother, Maria Yumasheva, was an educated Russian woman of Tartar descent. His father was an orthodox priest of Polish descent deported to Russia as a result of his political activities. At the age of 9, Konstantin caught scarlet fever and became hard of hearing. He was not admitted to elementary schools because of his hearing problem, so he was self-taught. After falling behind in his studies, Tsiolkovsky spent 3 years attending a library where Russian cosmism proponent Nikolai Fyodorov worked. He later came to believe that colonizing space would lead to the perfection of the human race, with immortality and a carefree existence. Additionally, inspired by the fiction of Jules Verne, Tsiolkovsky theorized many aspects of space travel and rocket propulsion. He is considered the father of spaceflight and the first man to conceive the space elevator, becoming inspired in 1895 by the newly-constructed Eiffel Tower in Paris. Tsiolkovsky worked as a high school mathematics teacher until retiring in 1920. He did not particularly flourish under a communist system, in particular Tsiolkovsky's support of eugenics made him politically unpopular. However, from the mid 1920s onwards the importance of his other work was acknowledged, and he was honored for it. He died on 19th September 1935 in Kaluga and was buried in state.

Scientific achievements

Tsiolkovsky stated that he developed the theory of rocketry only as a supplement to its philosophical researches. He wrote more than 400 works, most of which are little known to the general reader because of their questionable value.



Monument to Konstantin Tsiolkovsky in Moscow

During his lifetime he published over 88 works on space travel and related subjects. Among his works are designs for rockets with steering thrusters, multi-stage boosters, space stations, airlocks for exiting a spaceship into the vacuum of space, and closed cycle biological systems to provide food and oxygen for space colonies.

The first scientific study of Tsiolkovsky refers to the year 1880-1881. Unaware of the discoveries already

- [History](#)
- [Aims](#)
- [Concept](#)
- [Parenting](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Training Programmes](#)
- [Expansion](#)
- [Development](#)
- [Syllabus](#)
- [Bal Vikas Administration](#)
- [Past Students](#)
 - [June 2010](#)
 - [September](#)
- [Home](#)

[Activities from States](#)

[At the Lotus Feet](#)

[Gurus Corner](#)

[Children's Corner](#)

[From the Annals of the World History](#)

[Special Page](#)

[Glory of Bharath](#)

made, he wrote a paper called "The Theory of Gases," in which he outlined the basis of the kinetic theory of gases. His second work - "The mechanics of the animal organism" received favorable feedback and Tsiolkovsky was inducted into the Russian Physico-Chemical Society. The main works of Tsiolkovsky after 1884 were on with four major areas: the scientific rationale for the all-metal balloon (Airship), the streamlined airplane, trains, hovercrafts, and rockets for interplanetary travel.

Tsiolkovsky developed the first aerodynamic laboratory in Russia in his apartment. In 1897, he built the first Russian wind tunnel with an open test section, developed a method of experiment in it and in 1900 to grant the Academy of Sciences made a purge of the simplest models and determined the drag coefficient of the ball, flat plates, cylinders, cones and other bodies. Tsiolkovsky's work in the field of aerodynamics was a source of ideas for Zhukovsky. Tsiolkovsky described flow air stream of bodies of different geometric shapes.

Tsiolkovsky studied the mechanics of powered flight, which were designed "dirigibles" (the word "airship" was not yet invented). Tsiolkovsky first proposed the idea of an all-metal dirigible, and built its model. The first printed work on the airship was "Managed Metallic Balloon" (1892), in which was given the scientific and technical rationale for the design of an airship with metal sheath. Progressive for its time, Tsiolkovsky was not supported on the airship project: the author was refused a grant to build the model. An appeal to General Aviation Staff of the Russian army also had no success. In 1892, he turned to the new and unexplored field of aircraft heavier than air. Tsiolkovsky's idea was to build an airplane with a metal frame.

In the article "An airplane or a birdlike (aircraft) flying machine" (1894) are the descriptions and drawings of a monoplane, which by its appearance and aerodynamics was the design of an anticipated construction aircraft that would emerge over 15-18 years. In an Aviation Airplane, the wings have a thick profile with a rounded front edge and the fuselage - faired. But work on the airplane, as well as on the airship, has not received recognition from the official representatives of Russian science. For further research Tsiolkovsky had neither the means nor even moral support.

Since 1896 Tsiolkovsky systematically studied the theory of motion of jet apparatus. Thoughts on the use of the rocket principle in the cosmos were expressed as early as 1883 by Tsiolkovsky. But a rigorous theory of jet propulsion described them in 1896. Tsiolkovsky derived the formula (it was called "Formula of Aviation"), establishing the relationship between:

- speed of a rocket at any moment
- specific impulse fuel
- mass of the rocket in the initial and final time

$$\delta V = I_0 \ln \left(\frac{M_1}{M_0} \right)$$

When finished recording math, Tsiolkovsky automatically set the date: May 10, 1897. In the same year the formula for the motion of the body of variable mass was published in the thesis of the Russian mathematician I. V. Meshchersky ("Dynamics of a point of variable mass," IV Meshchersky, St. Petersburg., 1897). His most important work, published in 1903, was The Exploration of Cosmic Space by Means of Reaction Devices Tsiolkovsky calculated, with the Tsiolkovsky equation, that the horizontal speed required for a minimal orbit around the Earth is 8,000 m/s (5 miles per second) and that this could be achieved by means of a multistage rocket fueled by liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen. In 1903 he published an article "Investigation of outer space rocket appliances", in which for the first time it was proved that a rocket could perform space flight. In this article, and its subsequent sequels (1911 and 1914), he developed some ideas of missiles and the use of liquid rocket engine. Result of the first publication was not the one expected by Tsiolkovsky. No foreign scientists appreciated the research, which today is a major science. He was simply ahead of his time. In 1911 published the second part of the work "The study of outer space rocket appliances." Tsiolkovsky evaluates work to overcome the force of gravity, determines the speed you need to exit the device into the solar system ("escape velocity") and flight time. At this time the article Tsiolkovsky made a splash in the scientific world. Tsiolkovsky has found many friends in the world of science. In 1926-1929 Tsiolkovsky solves the practical problem: how to get fuel into the rocket to get the separation speed and leave the Earth. It turned out that the finite speed of the rocket depends on the rate of gas flowing from it and from how many times the weight of the fuel exceeds the empty weight of the rocket.

Tsiolkovsky made a number of ideas that have been used in rocket. They proposed: gas rudders (graphite) for the rocket flight control and change the trajectory of its center of mass, use of components of the fuel to cool the outer shell of the spacecraft (during re-entry Earth), The walls of the combustion chamber and nozzle, pump system feeding the fuel components, the optimal descent trajectory of the spacecraft while returning from space, etc.

In the field of rocket propellants Tsiolkovsky studied a large number of different oxidizing and combustible fuel recommended couples: liquid oxygen and hydrogen and oxygen with hydrocarbons. Tsiolkovsky much fruitful work on the creation of the theory of jet aircraft, has invented his chart Gas Turbine Engine; In 1927 published the theory and design of a train on an air cushion. He first proposed a "bottom of the retractable body" chassis. Space flight and the airship was the main problem that he devoted his life. Tsiolkovsky had been developing the idea of the air cushion since 1921, publishing fundamental paper on it in 1927, entitled "Air Resistance and the Express Train" In 1929 Tsiolkovsky proposed the construction of multistage rockets in his book Space Rocket Trains Tsiolkovsky championed the idea of the diversity of life in Universe, was the first theorist and advocate of human space exploration.

Tsiolkovsky never built a rocket; he apparently did not expect many of his theories to ever be implemented. Only late in his lifetime was Tsiolkovsky honoured for his pioneering work. He supported the Bolshevik Revolution, and the new Soviet government wished to identify itself with technology. In 1918 he was elected as a member of the Socialist Academy, and in 1921 received a lifetime pension.

Legacy

Although many called his ideas impractical, Tsiolkovsky influenced later rocket scientists throughout Europe,

like Wernher von Braun. Russian search teams at Peenemünde found a German translation of a book by Tsiolkovsky of which "almost every page...was embellished by von Braun's comments and notes." Leading Russian rocket-engine designer Valentin Glushko and rocket designer Sergey Korolyov studied Tsiolkovsky's works as youths, and both sought to turn Tsiolkovsky's theories into reality. In particular, Korolyov saw traveling to Mars as the more important priority, until in 1964 he decided to compete with the American Project Apollo for the moon.

Philosophical work

Tsiolkovsky wrote a book called "The Will of the Universe. The Unknown Intelligence" in 1928 in which he propounded a philosophy of pansychism. He believed humans would eventually colonize the Milky Way galaxy.

Tributes



Draft first space ship by Konstantin Tsiolkovsky

- The State Museum of the History of Cosmonautics in Kaluga now bears his name.
- The crater Tsiolkovskiy (the most prominent crater on the far side of the Moon) was named after him, while asteroid 1590 Tsiolkovskaja was named after his wife.
- There is a statue of Konstantin Tsiolkovsky directly outside the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.