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### **Abstract**

Chapter titles: 1 Introduction; 2 Political preamble; 3 Lockdown; 4 Spaceflight now; 5 Spaceship Earth; 6 Cultural reflections; 7 Interplanetary; 8 Interstellar; 9 Cosmic engineers.

Thesis: We must strenuously push toward our cosmic destiny among the stars. Beginning to expand beyond the Earth before it's too late is our most important task at this moment in history. Many actors have important roles to play, and there's room for everyone. Spaceflight will also help find viable solutions for current developmental, environmental, and social problems.

But the road to the stars is full of impediments and roadblocks. We will not advance as fast as we wish. Therefore we must keep our mood strenuous and our drive strong. We need an optimistic spaceflight culture oriented to the future, energizing visions of interplanetary, interstellar, and cosmic futures, and a futurist space philosophy. This book goes from here and now to the far future and the stars. But it is a very short book, about 25,000 words.

### **A short bio**

I have worked many years at the European Space Agency, then as a senior manager at the EU Satellite Centre. Then I have been a technology consultant and writer.