

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

George F. McDonough, Jr., retired March, 1995
Director, Science and Engineering Directorate
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
Huntsville, Alabama 35812

Dr. George F. McDonough serves as director of the Science and Engineering (S&E) Directorate of the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. In this position he directs the operation of the major laboratories, offices, and staff elements in accomplishing their assigned mission. The directorate is presently concerned with such programs of national and international interest as the Space Shuttle, Spacelab, Space Telescope, Inertial Upper Stage, and the investigation of possible application of the directorate's scientific and engineering talents to current programs of national concern such as environmental problems, energy, etc.

McDonough was born in Chicago, Ill., in 1928 and graduated from Downers Grove High School in 1948. He received a bachelor of civil engineering degree from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1953, master of science in 1956 and a doctor of philosophy in 1959 from the University of Illinois.

McDonough began his professional career in 1954 as a research assistant, then as a research associate, and finally assistant professor at the University of Illinois. In 1960, he accepted a position of an associate professor at San Jose State College in California. In 1961 he joined the Rand Corporation staff as a consultant. He later served as a senior engineer with E.H. Plesset Associates, Santa Monica, Calif., and a senior scientist with United Aircraft, Los Angeles, Calif.

McDonough joined the Marshall Space Flight Center in 1963 as chief of the Structural Dynamics Section, Aero-Astroynamics Lab. He has served in key management positions within the Science and Engineering Directorate including technical assistant to the Director; director, Environmental Applications Office; deputy director, Data Systems Lab; and deputy associate Director for Engineering, S&E. In 1981, he was appointed director, Systems Dynamics Lab. In November 1986, his laboratory assumed added responsibility for structural design and analysis of space vehicles and was renamed the Structures and Dynamics lab. He served as deputy director for Space Systems, S&E, and from September 1988

to July 1989 at which time he was appointed director, Science & Engineering Directorate.

McDonough has received many awards and recognitions including the NASA Exceptional Service Medal in 1973, NASA Outstanding Leadership in 1982 and 1988, and the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive by President Bush in 1989.

McDonough and his wife, the former Louise Gutherie, reside in Huntsville. They have three children.

The Marshall Space Flight Center has a leading role in the nation's space program. During the sixties and early seventies, the Center was best known for developing the Saturn rockets and lunar roving vehicles for the Apollo program, and for Skylab, America's first space station. Marshall-developed satellites such as the Hubble Space Telescope have returned a wealth of information in astronomy, astrophysics, and other scientific disciplines.

Currently, the Marshall Center is responsible for a wide variety of NASA projects, ranging from production of propulsion elements for the Space Shuttle to management of Spacelab science research missions and other Space Shuttle payloads. Marshall is NASA's Center of Excellence for Propulsion, and it provides NASA with a wealth of technical expertise in the design of space hardware. The Center's research laboratories and test facilities are among the finest in the world.

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