

Contents

Acknowledgements	vii
Dedication	viii
About the Author	ix
Preface.....	x
1. Introduction	1
2. Giant launchers	16
Shoot ‘em up	16
Super heavy-lift launchers.....	19
Extremely heavy-lift launchers	33
The future of heavy lift.....	41
3. Reusable launchers.....	45
High expectations	45
Pushing the envelope.....	48
Shuttles and other reusable launchers	51
True spaceplanes	65
The trouble with spaceplanes	82
4. Space stations and orbital colonies	86
Donuts in orbit.....	86
Islands in space.....	100
Asteroid mining.....	117
5. Super satellites.....	120
Take out the crew.....	121
Hypersatellites and star shades.....	124
Space solar power.....	133

6. Giant probes	143
Voyager Mars.....	144
Mars sample return.....	149
Europa Ocean Explorer	158
Prometheus	163
Solar sailing.....	167
7. Mars expeditions	173
The Mars Project	176
Stuck in Earth Orbit.....	180
Mars Direct.....	186
On Mars in 2030+	191
8. To the stars.....	204
Interstellar probe.....	205
Riding the nuclear blast wave.....	209
Starshot.....	218
9. Conclusions	223
Bibliography	235
Index.....	248