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DR. WALTER HAEUSSERMANN

Dr. Walter Haeussermann is associate director for science in the Science and Engineering Directorate at NASA's George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. He also serves as the Center's Systems International Coordinator with responsibility for implementing NASA/MSFC policy on the use of the International System of Units. Prior to his current assignment, Dr. Haeussermann was director of Central Systems Engineering, in charge of overall systems engineering for the Marshall Center's programs. From 1960 to 1969, he directed the Center's Guidance and Control Laboratory, later named Astrionics Laboratory, which was responsible for the guidance, control, navigation, instrumentation and network systems of the multi-stage Saturn launch vehicles.

Dr. Haeussermann, a native of Germany, was born in 1914 and educated in schools in that country. He holds a bachelor and a master of science degree in electrical engineering and obtained a doctorate in physics and mathematics in 1944 from the Institute of Technology in Darmstadt, Germany.

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Prior to coming to the United States, Dr. Haeussermann was engaged for two and one-half years in the development of guidance and control systems at the former Peenemuende Rocket Research Center and in research activities for the German Army and Navy conducted at the Institute of Technology in Darmstadt. From January 1946 to June 1947, he performed research and development work on analog computers and accelerometers, conducted for the U. S. Army in Germany, and taught at the College of Engineering in Darmstadt.

In 1948, Dr. Haeussermann transferred to the U. S. under contract to the U. S. Army. He joined the group of rocket specialists directed by Dr. Wernher von Braun at Fort Bliss, Tex., engaged in the Army's guided missile development program. When the group moved to Redstone Arsenal, Ala., in 1950, Dr. Haeussermann became actively involved in the development of the Redstone missile. In 1954, he was named director of the Guidance and Control Laboratory of the Guided Missile Development Division. Under his direction, the laboratory developed the guidance and control systems for the Redstone, Jupiter and Pershing missiles. On January 31, 1958, a Jupiter C missile launched Explorer I, the Free World's first earth satellite. When the Marshall Center was established in July 1960, Dr. Haeussermann transferred to the new organization, continuing in the position as director of the Guidance and Control Laboratory.

Dr. Haeussermann, who became a U. S. citizen in 1954, served for many years as a member of the Auburn University graduate faculty as professor for electrical engineering. He is a Fellow of the American Astronautical Society, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, a member of the Institute of Navigation, and Vice Chairman of the International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC) Space Committee.

For outstanding work in his field, Dr. Haeussermann received the Exceptional Civilian Service award of the Department of the Army on March 26, 1959. He was awarded the NASA Medal for Outstanding Leadership in October 1963, the NASA Exceptional Service Medal in January and July 1969, and received the Institute of Navigation Superior Achievement Award in July 1970.