



Short Biography Vladimir Pletser



Vladimir Pletser earned a Master of Engineering in Mechanics in 1979, a Master of Sciences in Geophysics in 1980 and a Ph.D. in Astrophysics in 1990 from the University of Louvain, Belgium.

He is currently Director of Space Training Operations at [Blue Abyss](#), a company based in UK, proposing a new approach for astronaut training.

From 2016 to 2018, he was Visiting Professor – Scientific Adviser at the Technology and Engineering Centre for Space Utilization of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, China, supporting the preparation and development of microgravity research instrumentation for parabolic flights and for the future Chinese Space Station.

Previously, he worked for 30 years as Senior Physicist – Engineer at the European Space Research and Technology Centre ([ESTEC](#)) of the European Space Agency (ESA), developing scientific instruments for microgravity research in fluid physics, crystallisation of proteins and zeolites and on dexterous manipulation on board the International Space Station.

He was also responsible of the ESA aircraft parabolic flight programme. He logged more than 7350 parabolas, representing more than 39h 30m of weightlessness, equivalent to 26 Earth orbits, and 53 min and 50 min at Mars and Moon g levels, during which he participated in several hundred experiments in physical and life sciences. He holds the official Guinness World Record for the number of airplanes (14) on which he flew parabolas. He served as Flight instructor for public Discovery Parabolic Flights.

Astronaut Candidate for Belgium since 1991, he was Payload Specialist candidate for several Spacelab missions, including Spacelab LMS for which he spent two months in training at NASA-JSC, Houston, in 1995. He was Astronaut Training Instructor for Parabolic Flights with ESA astronauts and for NASA and DLR astronauts for several Spacelab missions.

Selected in 2001 by *The Mars Society*, a private organisation promoting the human exploration of Mars, he participated in three international simulation campaigns of Mars missions in the Arctic Circle in 2001 and in the Desert of Utah in 2002 and as Crew Commander in 2009.

He is visiting Professor in 20 universities in Europe, USA, Canada, Africa, Israel, and China. He has more than 600 publications, including 16 books or chapter in books, 60 articles in refereed journals and 132 articles in international conferences proceedings.

He is member of the *International Astronautical Academy* ([IAA](#)) and of several other academies and scientific organizations.

See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir_Pletser
<https://sites.google.com/site/vladimirpletser/home>

