



# Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship

*By George Dyson*

Download now

Read Online 

## Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson

In 1957, a small group of scientists, supported by the U.S. government, launched an attempt to build a four-thousand-ton spaceship propelled by nuclear bombs. The initial plan called for missions to Mars by 1965 and Saturn by 1970. After seven years of work, political obstacles brought the effort to a halt.

The Orion team, led by the American bomb-designer Theodore B. Taylor, included the physicist Freeman Dyson, whose son George was five years old when the existence of the project was first announced. In Project Orion, George Dyson has synthesized hundreds of hours of interviews and thousands of pages of newly excavated documents, still only partially declassified, to piece together one of the most tantalizing "what if" stories of the twentieth century.

 [Download Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaces ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spac ...pdf](#)

# Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship

*By George Dyson*

## **Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship** By George Dyson

In 1957, a small group of scientists, supported by the U.S. government, launched an attempt to build a four-thousand-ton spaceship propelled by nuclear bombs. The initial plan called for missions to Mars by 1965 and Saturn by 1970. After seven years of work, political obstacles brought the effort to a halt.

The Orion team, led by the American bomb-designer Theodore B. Taylor, included the physicist Freeman Dyson, whose son George was five years old when the existence of the project was first announced. In Project Orion, George Dyson has synthesized hundreds of hours of interviews and thousands of pages of newly excavated documents, still only partially declassified, to piece together one of the most tantalizing "what if" stories of the twentieth century.

## **Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship** By George Dyson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1123105 in Books
- Brand: Holt Paperbacks
- Published on: 2003-04-01
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.32" h x .97" w x 6.24" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 368 pages

 [Download Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaces ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spac ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson

---

### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Like cheap, shiny space suits and bug-eyed rubber monsters, nuclear-powered spaceships today seem like little more than laughably naïve 1950s science fiction tropes. It might have been otherwise--and still could be. George Dyson, son of supergenius physicist Freeman Dyson, wrote *Project Orion* to share some of his father's amazing research with the world. Much had been kept secret for years, but Dyson's unique insider status permits great depth and breadth on this important tale. Conceived in the wake of *Sputnik*, Project Orion was a true vision of '50s engineering: a huge 40-person ship powered by hundreds of tiny atomic bombs, capable of much greater lift and efficiency than chemically driven rockets. Struggles between NASA, the military, Congress, and other parties doomed Orion, but Dyson has gathered hundreds of documents and interviewed most of the researchers and engineers who worked together, trying to reach "Saturn by 1970." His knack for storytelling makes the book a quick, delightful read; even the staunchest anti-nuke activist has to admit that lighting a cigarette off a parabolic mirror facing a bomb test is pretty cool. By the end of the 20th century, technology had caught up with the vision of Orion--it's considered one of our best bets for long-distance space transit. Whether or not that could ever happen politically, *Project Orion* is a compelling exploration of scientific imagination. --Rob Lightner

#### From Publishers Weekly

In the years after WWII and the Russian launch of two sputniks, Americans were searching for any technology that would give them dominance in the space race. In his latest, Dyson (*Darwin Among the Machines*) charts the history of the failed Project Orion, which called for a massive rocket to be built atop a nuclear-powered piston. The project's physicists and engineers, buoyed by the thrilling idea of traveling through space on "pulse technology," conducted a number of explosive experiments to ascertain the abilities of such a system (which reveals how little was actually known about the bombs being produced by the world's superpowers). Meanwhile, the project, started in 1957, ran headlong into detractors Kennedy and NASA included and eventually was canceled. Much of the technical information in the Orion files remains classified, but Dyson's explanations of the nuclear science behind the system are lucid. A great strength of Dyson's project is the interviews he conducted with surviving Orion team members among them his father, Freeman Dyson affording readers an intimate view of the story's central characters (and its government contractors) who helped shape Orion. At the same time, these compelling interviews drag on; the story's drama is diffused by the musings of its key players, who sometimes crowd out the dynamic background of the Cold War, Wernher Von Braun's chemical rocket program, atmospheric weapons test bans and presidential administrations vested in nuclear capacities only designed for destruction. Illus. and photos. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

#### From Library Journal

Shortly after the first Sputnik launch in 1957, an American scientific team proposed Project Orion, an enormous interplanetary spaceship propelled by exploding hundreds of nuclear bombs. The project commenced during the golden age of support for U.S. scientific research, but the team struggled to find ongoing funding. Civilian NASA found Orion unpalatable because of its inextricable link with nuclear weapons, while the military regarded the team's ultimate goal exploration of the solar system as peripheral to their own space research program. As public opposition to atmospheric nuclear testing grew, making even a small-scale test shot politically unfeasible, the project died for lack of support. Dyson, son of physicist Freeman Dyson (himself an Orion consultant), interviewed team members and tracked down scores of technical reports to compile this unique history. Unfortunately, some of the author's and interviewees'

remarks about fallout and classified bomb research seem naive, cavalier, or just plain insensitive in a post-September 11 context. For academic and larger public libraries. Nancy R. Curtis, Univ. of Maine Lib., Orono  
Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **James Snyder:**

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children till adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important usually. The book Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship ended up being making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The publication Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship is not only giving you a lot more new information but also to become your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship with the book Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship. You never really feel lose out for everything should you read some books.

#### **Herb Baker:**

As people who live in the modest era should be revise about what going on or facts even knowledge to make them keep up with the era which is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which you should start with. This Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

#### **Elliott Townsend:**

The ability that you get from Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship could be the more deep you looking the information that hide in the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood through anyone who read it because the author of this book is well-known enough. That book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship instantly.

#### **Harry Blalock:**

The book untitled Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship is the e-book that recommended to you to read. You can see the quality of the guide content that will be shown to you actually. The language that article author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The article writer was did a lot of investigation when write the book, and so the information that they share to you personally is

absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship from the publisher to make you more enjoy free time.

**Download and Read Online Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson #YET47VB6OWR**

## **Read Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson for online ebook**

Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson books to read online.

### **Online Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson ebook PDF download**

**Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson Doc**

**Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson Mobipocket**

**Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson EPub**

**YET47VB6OWR: Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson**