

Dr. Tom Heinsheimer

Dr. Tom Heinsheimer (University of Paris '66) now at the Aerospace Corporation started at the MIT Instrumentation Lab under Dr. Stark Draper on lunar flight guidance and navigation leading to Apollo. At General Dynamics Astronautics he worked on the Mercury Atlas that launched John Glenn.

He was system engineer on the Israeli Jericho ballistic missile program. He then went to CNRS in Paris flying sounding rocket payloads from Algeria and launching around-the-world balloon flights in the southern hemisphere. At Aerospace he had various levels of responsibility for national security programs and developed and piloted the record-holding ATMOSAT super-pressure balloon. In 1979 he revived the Gordon Bennet Balloon Race. He recently teamed with JPL on the NASA-NIAC Solar Gravity Lens project to detect exoplanets orbiting distant stars.

