



**INTERNATIONAL
ACADEMY
OF ASTRONAUTICS**

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IAA Attributes the Von Karman Award for 2012 to

Mr Jean-Jacques Dordain

The International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) has attributed the Theodore Von Karman Award for 2012 to Mr Jean-Jacques Dordain, ESA's General Director, in recognition for his lifelong service to the aerospace profession in space agency, aerospace study and research agency and the international community; for his outstanding contributions to space flight programs; for his role in the development of space launch vehicles such as Ariane vehicles; and for his dedicated leadership of the European Space Agency.

The Von Karman Award, created in 1983, recognizes outstanding lifetime achievements in space related scientific activities. It is awarded annually without restrictions concerning nationality or gender. Most prestigious of the Academy's individual awards, it is named in honor of the Academy's founder and first President, a scientist of the highest international reputation.

Mr Dordain began his career with the French National Aerospace Study and Research Agency (ONERA), conducting research on liquid propellant rocket engines and microgravity experiments. In 1976, he became Coordinator of Space Activities and remained in this post until 1981. It was during this period that he was selected as a French candidate astronaut for the Spacelab programme.

In 1982 he took over as Director of the General Physics Directorate of ONERA. Mr Dordain, in parallel with his other professional activities, was appointed senior lecturer in mechanical engineering at the Ecole Polytechnique from 1977 to 1993 and professor at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace from 1973 to 1987. In 1997 he was also Executive Secretary of the Evaluation Committee of the Japanese Space Agency (NASDA). Mr Jean-Jacques Dordain is a member of the French Académie des Technologies and the Académie de l'Air et de l'Espace. He has been awarded the French Legion d'Honneur and the Ordre National du Mérite.