



**A**s a child in Poland, when I gazed up at the stars I had no idea that one day I would help to explore them. I moved with my family to the U.S. as a teenager, and earned BS and MS degrees in Materials Engineering at the University of Illinois. My fascination with the cosmos continued during my college days. I bought a telescope to explore features of the Moon and rings of Saturn.

In the 1990s, I was part of a team consisting of NASA, Lockheed Martin, and Reynolds Metals, tasked with the challenge of developing aluminium-lithium technology critically needed for a new generation of space shuttle rockets that delivered components to the International Space Station.

On June 2, 1998, one of the most exciting days of my life, I was sitting in the VIP section of the Kennedy Space Complex witnessing the incredibly successful launch of the Space Shuttle Discovery, which used an external tank built out of recently developed 2195 alloy, which would later join the Airware family.

Since 2002, I have worked for Constellium developing Airware® alloys for projects such as SpaceX' Falcon 9® and NASA's powerful Space Launch System rocket. There is no greater challenge than space travel, and my work is never dull. The conditions of outer space require extremely sophisticated materials that can resist environmental and operational stresses—everything from launch turbulence to huge temperature variations.

Our Airware® alloys allow for stronger, lighter construction, for more payload and higher orbits. They are highly formable, have superior tensile strength, and exhibit excellent properties at liquid oxygen and hydrogen temperatures. Constellium produces these state-of-the-art metals for trailblazing clients such as NASA, Boeing, Blue Origin, and Lockheed Martin.

I like to think that kids all over the world are looking at the night sky and seeing the incredible spaceships we've put up there. I hope their dreams will push them to be a part of the space program.



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