

Biography



Since 1999, March Heppener has been Head of the Science and Applications Division, at ESA (European Space Agency), Directorate of Human Spaceflight, Microgravity and Exploration.

He received a Masters degree in Physical Chemistry from the University of Amsterdam in 1981 and a PhD from the same University in 1986 with a thesis on "Intramolecular Energy Distribution in Van der Waals Molecules".

From 1986-1989 he was team leader for X-ray detector development the Laboratory for Space Research at Leiden University.

From 1989 to 1999 he was Programme Manager for External Research at the Space Research Organisation of the Netherlands (SRON), as well as Responsible for Dutch National Programmes in Microgravity and Earth Observation, Space Policy Advisor of the Dutch Government, Responsible for the Dutch National Programmes in Microgravity and Earth Observation, Member of the Dutch Earth Observation Policy Committee, Member of several instrument development steering committees (GOME, SCIAMACHY, GOCE), Chairman of the Dutch Earth Observation Data Infrastructure Development, Dutch Delegate of the ESA Microgravity Programme Board, Manned Spaceflight Programme Board, and Chairman of the ESA Microgravity Programme Board.

He is a Member of the Netherlands Platform for Planetary Research (NPP), the President of Nederlandse Vereniging voor Ruimtevaart (Netherlands Society for Aerospace), and the president of the Space and Society Committee, International Federation of Astronautics.