



NANCY VERMEULEN

Pilot, Scientist and Commercial Astronaut
Trainer with inspiring and fascinating stories
about aviation, space and astronomy

Categorie

Science & Education

Type

Expert | Thought leader, Scientist

Inzetbaarheid

Keynote speaker, Expert, Master class

Talen

EN, NL

Afkomstig van

Belgium

Biografie

There are amazing women, and there are extraordinary women. And that's the least you can say about Nancy Vermeulen ...

When she was six years old, she tinkered together a telescope with magnifying glasses. When she was fifteen, she already guided tours at the observatory Urania in Hove, Belgium. No wonder she became an astronomer. In order to have an opportunity to become an astronaut at the ESA (European Space Agency) she has become an airline pilot. She even flew with an Airbus 300 cargo plane to Baghdad during the Iraq war.

When things started to go down in aviation, she returned to science. She became a researcher at the Technical University of Delft (The

Netherlands) and at the Royal Meteorological Institute (RMI) of Belgium where she contributed in the development of a new instrument to measure climate change. But flying remained her passion. During her off time she trained new pilots as a flight instructor and flew aerobatic flights.

In 2008 she took part in the astronaut selections of ESA, only one in ten participants was a woman.

In 2009 Nancy organized a "Zero Gravity Flight" for the Belgian national TV. She brought the different parties together (VRT, TU Delft), streamlined their programs and coached the participants during the event.

In 2010 she was Chief Organizer and Commander of the Mars Simulation Mission "MDRS90" in Utah, U.S.A.

Nancy's passion for aero- and astronautics brought her into personal contact with one of the greatest pioneers of the commercial space industry, Virgin Galactic founder Sir Richard Branson.

Nancy specialized as a flight instructor for professional pilots, flew private jets and became an independent specialist in "Space Training".