



# Maurizio Cheli



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## ESA Astronaut

Born in Modena, Italy, on May 4, 1959. In 1978 he entered at the Pozzuoli Aeronautical Academy where he earned a degree in Science Aeronautics.

In 1983 he obtained the assignment of operational pilot for reconnaissance on the famous F-104G, and in 1988 he ranked first in the course at the Empire Test Pilots School in Boscombe Down, U.K, thereby becoming an experimental test pilot for high performance.

In 1992, he joined the European Space Agency (ESA) and was sent to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.



In 1996 aboard of the Space Shuttle Columbia he participates in the mission STS-75 Tethered Satellite in which he held, the first Italian, the role of Mission Specialist. In same year he was hired by Alenia Aeronautica and obtained the position of Chief Test Pilot for defense aircraft. He was responsible for the operational development of the European Eurofighter Typhoon fighter aircraft.

In 2005 he founded CFM Air, a start-up dealing with the design of aircraft advanced light aircraft and the following year DigiSky, which develops electronic onboard electronics for sport aircraft.

Maurizio holds a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering at the University of Houston, USA in 1994, a B.S. in Political Science at the University of Turin in 2004 and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from ESCP Europe in Paris in 2007.

He has more than 380 hours of space activities and more than 5,000 hours of flight time to his credit on more than 100 different types of aircraft.

In May 2018 he reached the summit of Everest. He is currently an entrepreneur, motivational speaker and Ethical and Scientific Values Ambassador for Cosmos XP.

