

It's a real "flying saucer"

London, Saturday.—British rocket technicians have completed blue-prints for a real flying saucer—an inhabited space station revolving moon-like round the earth 22,000 miles up.

CHIEF designer Mr. H. E. Ross told the Inter-Planetary Society today how to get it space-borne and what it would do. He said:

"It will provide a watching post for effective international control of atomic energy. All large-scale explosions would be reported immediately, making secret atom-bomb tests almost impossible."

This space station would be 20 ft. wide and would weigh 2,000 tons. It would be pre-fabricated and taken up piecemeal by piloted freight rockets making 66 journeys and dumping each load in space, to be picked up later.

Mr. Ross said the bits would not fall, but would circle the earth, passing exactly the same spot at precise intervals.

If any object could be given a speed of 6,500 m.p.h. at 22,000 miles' altitude, gravitation would be balanced and the object would rotate.

"Because gravity was defeated, anybody leaving the space station would similarly circle the earth at the same speed.

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"So engineers in rigid space suits supplied with oxygen could easily put together the 'dumped' sections of the space station. They would jet-propel themselves about by squirting gases from cylinders strapped on their backs."

One engineer, he said, could lift the heaviest girder, because it would have no weight. Tools could be put down on nothing and wouldn't fall, but merely would accompany the engineer at the same speed.

The power of the sun's rays would be needed to spin the saucer round its hub and produce artificial gravity, because, without it, the men, their food, instruments, and bedding would float in chemically made air

Men would lead normal lives, except that they would have to stand horizontally with their heads pointing to the hub—although Mr. Ross claimed they would feel as if they were standing upright.

Purposes of the space station which would be connected with the earth by the rocket services would include accurate weather forecasts, world-wide re-diffusion of television, astronomical and other scientific research.

Mr. Ross added the project would cost about £130,000,000

Greatest height yet reached

Greatest height yet reached
by a rocket is 112 miles, but
one to be launched soon in
America is expected to travel
235 miles.—“Mail” Special.