

More than 550 people have flown in space to date, but only the 24 astronauts of the Apollo program have left the Earth's orbit to travel 1000 times farther to reach another world. Worthy successors of Christopher Columbus, just 12 men have walked on the Moon. Fascinated by this story, Lukas and Bettina Viglietti created the SWISSAPOLLO association in 2009, bringing together other enthusiasts with the intention of organizing events and exhibitions, and inviting astronauts to conferences in Europe.

Considering the evolution and extent of the planned events for the future, the SWISSAPOLLO association became a Limited Liability Company (LLC) in early 2015.

Many Swiss scientists and engineers worked in the US for the Apollo program in the 60s. Swiss companies delivered products which have achieved a cult status in the meantime, such as the famous Omega Speedmaster watch or the Velcrotex. Three Apollo astronauts, Walter Schirra, Jack Swigert and Joe Engle, even have Swiss ancestors. It is clear that this adventure is closely bound to our country's history.

Selected from among more than 1000 proposals, the Bernese solar wind capture experiment, the crowning achievement of Professor Johannes Geiss's work, was successfully deployed on the moon even before the American flag was planted on the historic Apollo 11 mission in July 1969.

Above all else, the Apollo program is an incredible human experience, achieved by around 400,000 people working hard to reach one of mankind's most ambitious dreams: to walk on the moon! For all of us, it is an outstanding example of team spirit, an essential attribute to ensure a sustainable future for our planet.

MY UNDERLYING INSPIRATION

One day, Apollo 15 astronaut Jim Irwin came to my neighboring village to hold a lecture. At age 12, I imagined a moonwalker to be a superhero: big, strong and a bit arrogant. However, when I met the 8th man to walk on the moon in person, I had before me a man who was slight and unassuming. His story was incredible, a great lesson in humility and hope for me as a child. It was then that I started to believe in my own dreams! And it was the desire to share that experience that motivated my wife Bettina and I to create SWISSAPOLLO together in 2009.

OUR GOALS

SWISSAPOLLO is a company dedicated to perpetuating the memory of Switzerland's contribution to the Apollo Lunar program and to upholding the bonds of friendship with its main protagonists.

SWISSAPOLLO supports the pursuance of space initiatives, in particular through the inspiring accounts of its historical pioneers.

SWISSAPOLLO wants to give the opportunity for children to meet, in person, the heroes of space exploration who represent a marvelous source of inspiration and motivation.

For SWISSAPOLLO the ultimate goal is to increase awareness of the Earth's beauty, this huge spacecraft which carries its payload of 8 billion human beings towards a common future through the vastness of the universe. Viewed from the moon, our Blue Planet seems so small and fragile.

MILESTONES

2009 Foundation of SWISSAPOLLO by Bettina and Lukas Viglietti.

2009 Official poster containing a summary about "the Swiss Solar Wind Composition Experiment"

2010 "Apollo 14" themed panel discussion starring astronauts Edgar Mitchell, Claude Nicollier and Professor Johannes Geiss. Swiss Transport Museum, Lucerne, Switzerland

2010 Opening of the permanent exhibition "First on the moon". Swiss Transport Museum, Lucerne, Switzerland.

2011 Panel Discussion "Apollo 16", starring astronauts Charlie Duke, Claude Nicollier and Professor Johannes Geiss. Swiss Transport Museum, Lucerne, Switzerland.

2012 Biggest Apollo exhibition ever held in Europe. Foire du Valais, Martigny, Switzerland

2012 "Apollo 16" themed panel discussion starring astronauts Charlie Duke, Claude Nicollier and Professor Johannes Geiss. Foire du Valais, Martigny, Switzerland

2014 Panel Discussion "Apollo 14", starring astronauts Edgar Mitchell, Claude Nicollier. Salle de la Marelle, Tramelan, Switzerland.

2014 Astronaut Charlie Duke attends the 30th Anniversary of the CSEM. Bern, Switzerland.

2014 Astronaut Edgar Mitchell attends the July 4th Festivities at the US Mission. United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

2014 Official visit of astronaut Edgar Mitchell to the Space Expo. Nordwijk, Netherlands.

2014 Astronaut Charlie Duke attends AIR 14. Payerne, Switzerland

2015 Television commercial starring astronaut Buzz Aldrin for Swiss Tourism.