



Joe Fuller

**Founder, Owner and Chief Executive Officer
Futron Corporation,
an aerospace consulting company**

Before he started his company, Futron Corporation, Joe Fuller worked in various positions at NASA over a stretch of 20 years. He was an aerospace systems engineer, a project manager, and also, a senior executive there. Joe is a nationally recognized expert in the design, development, and operations of both human-piloted and robotic spacecraft.

While at NASA, he was a flight controller for the Gemini program, and later, the Apollo moon-landing program. He also enjoyed being a part of the Space Shuttle program management team, and led projects that flew on the space shuttle and Tiros/NOAA, an environment monitoring satellite.

He is the founder of Futron Corporation, an aerospace consulting company. Some of the work Futron has performed in the areas of aviation and space safety has involved NASA's space shuttle and the International Space Station. Futron employees work on projects with the mission of making sure that people are safe when they travel in space. Futron employees also help to make sure that business and technical projects work and are successful.

Joe's career story began in middle school. He tells us:

By the time I was a seventh or eighth grader, I knew that I wanted to be either a scientist or an engineer. To get ready for this, I took every science and math class my schools offered. During my high school years, the Russians launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite to be placed into Earth's orbit, and NASA was established. During this exciting time, I wanted to become a space scientist.

The university I attended in Texas did not have a program for an engineering degree. I majored in physics instead, and continued to take all of the math and science courses offered there. Later, I earned an MBA from another college in Texas. I always worked very hard on my math skills. I loved taking science classes—I wanted to know more about how things work. I knew that getting a college education would give me the chance to make a contribution in science and technology.

After college, I was excited about beginning my career at NASA where I, and others, were focused on getting to the moon, learning to live and work in space, and obtaining benefits from space that would impact life on Earth. However, once I reached a level of achievement at NASA, I knew I was ready for a new challenge. It was at this time that I decided to start my own company.

I want to share with you one of life's secrets: If you practice excellence and work hard in everything you do with the goal of making a difference, you can do almost anything you want!