



Missie DELTA

Sander Koenen,
Fontaine
Uitgevers, 2004,
126pp, €17.90,

ISBN 9059560876.

On 27 May, only 27 days after Dutch ESA astronaut André Kuipers returned from his 11 day mission to the International Space Station, *Missie DELTA* was published.

Often, such a short period between an event and the publication of a book on that event is evident as the quality of the book leaves much to be desired. This book however, is a positive exception. Partly, that is because

the author received full and enthusiastic co-operation from Kuipers himself, who stayed in regular contact during his training, and in the first days following the landing. But the more than 100 full-colour photographs that illustrate the book, many of them made during Kuipers' training and space flight, also make this an attractive and interesting book. While the general text tells the story of how Kuipers became an astronaut, of his training and of the DELTA mission itself, parts of Kuipers' diary notes were added, as well as short descriptions and explanations of the experiments Kuipers conducted while in orbit.

All in all, *Missie DELTA* is a successful report of the project under which Kuipers flew to the ISS as flight engineer on Soyuz TMA-3. The only downside, if you may call it that, for non-Dutch speaking readers is the fact that the book is in Dutch. However, the photographs more than make up for that and still make this book a very nice addition to any library on manned space flight.

Bert Vis