

## **Kummersdorf (Gut) – the birthplace of astronautics**

In many cases technical progress is inseparably connected with the development of new weapons. This is regarded especially for the over 100 years old history of the former imperial artillery range in Kummersdorf-Gut. So it doesn't surprise, that the German army of the Third Reich saw in that rockets nothing else as fast and far-reaching missiles. And also it doesn't surprise, that the army of the Third Reich either cared for the private amateur scientist and rocket do-it-yourselfers, which were active especially in Berlin- or putted a stop to their practices.

That's why on the brink of the artillery range the first rocket test stands were build, first in the east, then also in the west, mostly buildings similar to bunkers, closed on three sides and with observation- and control installations at the back, particularly with fireproof emission drains in the ground. The technical success of the first propulsion - aggregates and the aviation of the first rockets leded to the construction of the rocket testing ground Peenemünde on the isle Usedom since 1936 – but in Kummersdorf there remained the propulsion research and -testing. To this one founded the research institute Gottow with more test stands with connected laboratories, which sense and function is not realized jet. Most important "product" for the military rocket research was the aggregate A 4 – support for the later "weapon of retaliation V 2", but also a basis for the booster rockets of the later civil astronautics since the 2.half of the fifties. So it doesn't surprise that Kummersdorf is called the cradle of the astronautics.

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