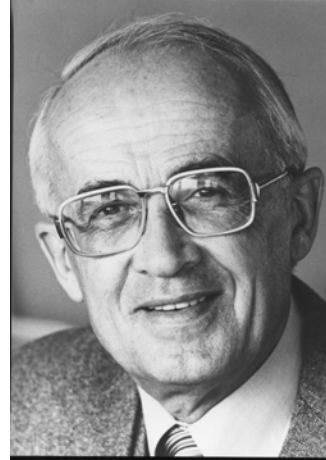


MEDALIST FOR 1993

For visionary leadership and innovation in design of rotorcraft, light aircraft, missiles and space systems.



LUDWIG BÖLKOW

Worldwide, the aircraft and space industry has benefitted from the talents of Ludwig Bölkow. He built a major aircraft industry in post-war Germany and later consulted with Boeing, Douglas and many other aerospace companies, helping with advanced design concepts for future transports. His beginnings were typical of your average engineer, but his rise in the aeronautical field soon placed him above all others.

After a course of practical work for airplane construction at Heinkel Aircraft in Germany, Ludwig Bölkow studied at the University of Berlin–Charlottenburg from 1934 to 1938. In March 1939, he joined the project office of Messerschmitt AG in Augsburg; beginning as a clerk, he later was elevated to a group leader for high-speed aerodynamics. The Me 262 and its successors were projects he developed. In 1943, he was entrusted with the management of the development office for the Me 109 fighter in Wiener Neustadt near Wein. The “K” modification with higher performance was constructed there and was to be delivered in the fall of 1944. In January 1944, he returned to the design office of Messerschmitt, in charge of program management for the development of the advanced fighter Me P 1101, with the then advanced “swept back” wing.

After the war, Bölkow stayed in Germany. He initiated the development of modern structural engineering concepts as well as process automation, the first applied to low volume aircraft construction. In June of 1948, he founded his own engineering offices in Stuttgart. He dedicated his work to aerospace, aviation, defense, transportation and energy technologies. After several mergers, under the leadership of Bölkow, his company became Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blom GmbH in 1969, a leader in the industry.

He left the board of directors of MBB at the age of 65, and continues to dedicate his efforts to long-range studies and demonstration projects in the field of solar and other renewable energies, renewable hydrogen, advanced transportation concepts and other environmentally compatible technologies; which since 1983, are concentrated in the Ludwig-Bölkow-Foundation and Ludwig-Bölkow-Systemtechnik GmbH.

Daniel Guggenheim Medal

This aeronautical pioneer died July 25, 2003.