



*News Release*  
*Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008*

## HAWKING BOOK COVER TO BE LAUNCHED INTO SPACE

The cover of the children's book, *GEORGE'S SECRET KEY TO THE UNIVERSE* by Lucy and Stephen Hawking is to be blasted into space on October 12, 2008.

The book cover will be carried by Richard Garriott, a preeminent game developer and son of NASA Skylab Astronaut Owen Garriott, Richard will be the next civilian to fly into space. His mission is made possible by Space Adventures, Ltd.

The cover of *GEORGE'S SECRET KEY TO THE UNIVERSE* will be signed by Lucy Hawking and printed by Professor Stephen Hawking before it takes its flight, starting a journey in Cambridge, via Russia and Kazakhstan to the International Space Station (ISS) which orbits at a distance of approximately 220 miles from the Earth's surface.

*GEORGE'S SECRET KEY TO THE UNIVERSE* was written to interest children in physics and the universe and is an entertaining blend of a fictional story based on Science fact, with factual text boxes explaining the Science throughout. On publication in September 2007 contained brand new information about black holes. The book is a global bestseller, with rights sold in over 30 languages.

A second book, *GEORGE AND THE COSMIC TREASURE HUNT* will follow in 2009 and will see our young hero travel into space himself once more.

### *About Space Adventures:*

Space Adventures, the company that organized the flights for the world's first and only private space explorers: Dennis Tito, Mark Shuttleworth, Greg Olsen, Anousheh Ansari and Charles Simonyi, is headquartered in Vienna, Virginia, USA with an office in Moscow. It offers a variety of programs such as the availability today for spaceflight missions to the ISS and around the moon, Zero-Gravity flights, cosmonaut training, spaceflight qualification programs and reservations on future suborbital spacecrafts. For more information, please visit [www.spaceadventures.com](http://www.spaceadventures.com).

### *About Richard Garriott:*

Richard Garriott, the legendary video game programmer and designer will be launching to orbit on October 12, 2008. In doing so, Richard will become Earth's sixth private citizen to conduct a space mission aboard the International Space Station. Richard will be flying aboard the Russian Soyuz spacecraft to the ISS as a client of Space Adventures.

Richard is following in the footsteps of his father, Owen Garriott a former NASA astronaut and is set to become America's first "second generation" astronaut. While Owen joined the NASA astronaut corps and completed two space missions during his career, Richard is now helping to usher in another new era in manned space exploration. He is funding his own private spaceflight to Earth's only manned outpost in orbit the ISS.

For further information on Richard's flight go to: <http://www.richardinspace.com/index.cfm>

For further information on *GEORGE'S SECRET KEY TO THE UNIVERSE* go to [www.georgessecretkey.com](http://www.georgessecretkey.com) or contact Nina Douglas at Random House Children's Books on 020 8231 6740, or email [ndouglas@randomhouse.co.uk](mailto:ndouglas@randomhouse.co.uk).