



## “Italy in Space”: at Spotorno 20 billboards tell 50 years of successes

Following the path of WOMEN IN SPACE exhibition, presented for the first time in Turin for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tereshkova and then exhibited a dozen times in Italy and abroad, ITALY IN SPACE is the version, prepared for the general public, of the collection of the same name that was in a “standing display” at the RPSL in London in May, after gaining the gold medal in Prague (April 2016) and being exhibited in Berlin (Germany 2013), in Gmunden (Austria 2015), in St-Médard (France 2015), but never in Italy. The frames have been on show in Spotorno during “Scienza Fantastica 2016” and will eventually be at “ItaliaFil” in Bologna on next 21 and 22 October.



Guest of Honor was **Franco Malerba** who in Spotorno started the celebration of his historical flight that from July 31 to August 7, 1992 brought him in orbit onboard the Shuttle Atlantis STS-46, **first Italian astronaut** to fly into space.



*On the left, dinner with Franco Malerba and ASITAF Members. On the right, visit to the exhibit ITALY IN SPACE with ASITAF Members (Lodovico Sacchi, Umberto Cavallaro, Massimo Trenta,) Gian Luca Giudice, Assessor for Culture of the Municipality of Spotorno and creator of the Event, and Italian Astronaut Franco Malerba.*

With the cooperation of the Department for Culture of the Municipality of Spotorno, that provided the graphical support and eventually took care of the production of the twenty colourful presentation boards, this version of the exhibit ITALY IN SPACE intended for scholarships and general public was implemented and was then on show for the first time in Spotorno in the Sala Convegni Palace with a great success and appreciation from the visitors.



The twenty frames illustrate the history of more than 50 years of successes of Italy in Space. The Italian adventure started in the early '60s with the San Marco programme: the first satellite to be entirely built and launched by a Western European country. In those early years in which started the race of USSR and USA for the conquest of the space, Italy was very active and participated in the initiatives of ELDO (Woomera) and ESRO (Salto di Quirra) that ended in the setting up of the European Space Agency.



Despite the very limited resources of the post-war austerity, the Italian Aerospace industry was able to effectively enter not only in the sector of the scientific satellites, where it has accumulated records and prestigious positions, but also in "human space flights" where it boasts the leadership in the production of habitable pressurized volumes. Over 50% of the living space of the ISS was built in Turin by Thales Alenia Space Italy, with the involvement of the entire Italian aerospace industry.





Very remarkable is the presence of Italy in the European Astronauts' Corps. In the past 25 years seven Italian astronauts have flown in space in ten different missions. For each of these astronauts there was a dedicated frame; see examples below.



The exhibit will be presented again during *ItaliaFil* in Bologna on 21 and 22 October 2016.