

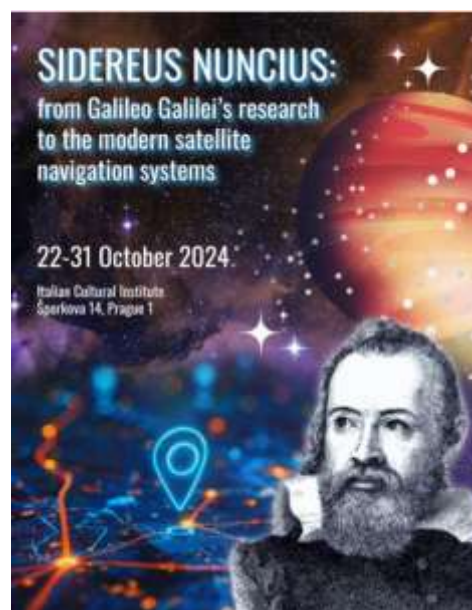
2024: From Galilei's research to the modern satellite navigation systems

Sidereus Nuncius in Prague

On the initiative of the Italian Embassy in Prague, with a limited number of invited personalities, on October 21 the GALILEO EXHIBITION was opened to celebrate the Europea GALILEO GNSS. For 10 days it was possible for everyone to visit the show in the elegant Baroque Chapel of the Italian Cultural Institute (IIC).

In Prague is based EUSPA the European Space Agency's entity that manages the GALILEO GNSS system which was designed and implemented in Italy

The inaugural conference was introduced by the Embassy's Space Attaché **Maria Cristina Falvella** who organized the exhibition. In his introductory speech, the Ambassador of Italy to the Czech Republic, **Mauro Marsili**, thanked for their contributions INAF, the Museo Galileo, the *Italian Association of Astrophilately - AS.IT.AF*, the Permanent Representation of Italy to the International Organizations in Paris and EUSPA .



About 70 invited guests attended the opening of the exhibition. In the photo: Maria Cristina Falvella (Space Attaché of the Embassy in Prague), Umberto Cavallaro, Alessandro De Angelis (Scientific Attaché of the Embassy in Paris), Christoph Kautz (EU Director for Satellite Navigation and Earth Observation), Mauro Marsili (Italian Ambassador in Prague), Rodrigo da Costa (Executive Director of EUSPA), Marialuisa Pappalardo (Director of the IIC), Václav Kobera (Director of Space Activities in Czech Republic), Guido Dresti.

At the request of the Italian Embassy, ASITAF contributed by bringing the copy of the Sidereus Nuncius that flew to the ISS for almost 6 months, and the astrophilatelic documentation of the launches of the satellites of the Galileo satellite constellation, which in part had already been presented in Prague on the occasion of Eurospace 2016.



A sinistra: il Sidereus Nuncius che ASITAF ha fatto volare sulla ISS per 167 giorni. A destra Umberto Cavallaro e Maria Cristina Falvella, con la documentazione astrofilatelica dei lanci di tutti i satelliti della Costellazione Galileo

“Galileo and the satellite navigation” in Amsterdam

After the solemn celebration held in Prague, an equally solemn celebration could not be missed in the Netherlands, where the GAILEO project was technically managed in Noordwijk, home of ESA-ESTEC where is based the Navigation Directorate of the Galileo Programme.

The exhibition “*Galileo and the Satellite Navigation*” was inaugurated at the Italian Cultural Institute in Amsterdam on 9 December 2024, on the occasion of the fourth Italian Space Day. The opening ceremony, attended by about sixty guests, was introduced by the scientific attaché of the Embassy **Dario Grasso**, curator of the exhibition.

Then spoke **H.E. Ambassador Giorgio Novello**, **Prof. Alessandro De Angelis** (Scientific Attaché of the Embassy in Paris) and **Eng. Marco Falcone** (ESTEC-ESA).

At the invitation of Ambassador Giorgio Novello ASITAF contributed by displaying in Amsterdam the flown *Sidereus Nuncius* and the astrophilatelic documentation related to the 15 the Galileo satellites launched between 2005 and 2024 from Baikonur, Kourou e Cape Canaveral.



In the picture, from left: Umberto Cavallaro, Marco Falcone (ESTEC-ESA), H.E. Ambassador Giorgio Novello, Alessandro De Angelis (Scientific Attaché of the Italian Embassy in Paris), Dario Grasso (Scientific Attaché of the Italian Embassy in The Hague and organizer of the Exhibition).

The return of the SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA's flag flown to ISS

Another significant event was the delivery of the the red eight-pointed-cross flag of the SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA which, on request of ASITAF Valter Villadei had carried aboard the ISS during his Axiom-3 mission.

The ceremony for the official return of the flag was held in Rome at the Magistral Villa – the historic seat of the Grand Priory on the Aventine Hill, which houses the embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta in the Italian Republic, with the right of extraterritoriality since 1869.



From the keyhole of the entrance gate, the visitor can enjoy one of the most evocative views of the dome of St. Peter's Basilica, perfectly framed at the bottom of the villa's garden



On March 19 SMOM issued a special pictorial cancel to commemorate the launch of the AX-3 Mission carrying of the flag into space. Two stamps were issued to celebrate the return of the flag.



Spacefood at the NASA LIFE IN SPACE Exhibition in Copenhagen

The ASITAF spacefood exhibit, formerly displayed in Istanbul, Ankara, Tenerife, Athens, and Basel (CH) arrived on November 1st in Denmark, at the Bella Center of Copenhagen, with NASA LIFE IN SPACE. In the first 15 day the exhibition already attracted 5200 visitors and more than 300 students from Danish schools.



ROMA – NSE (New Space Economy)

From December 16 to 18, 2024, we were at Fiera di Roma, hosted the 6th edition of the *New Space Economy* expo-forum.

One of the aspects that most intrigued the public were the first three displays illustrating "What Astronauts Eat in Space" (accompanied by our historic panels in the background on the wall).



Visitors were equally attracted by the subsequent displays, showing several important items that, at the initiative of AS.IT.AF, flew on the Space Station: micronized anastatic copies of the *Holy Bible* in Italian (the CEI edition), the *Divine Comedy* (flown on the 700th anniversary of Dante's death), and Galileo's *Sidereus Nuncius*. All these works, reproduced on A3 sheets, were stamped with the International Space Station's onboard seal. Each copy was then

franked and postmarked at the official post office in the Russian segment of the Station and signed by the crews that were on board at the time. Each item was accompanied by a photograph showing it floating in zero gravity in the ISS Cupola.

The AS.IT.AF stand was deemed by several visitors (including exhibitors) to be the most interesting of the entire event.