



50th anniversary balloon launched by
1° Maresciallo Lorenzo Bortolossi.
Photo courtesy of Italian Air Force.

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Frecce Tricolore aerobatic team
flying over Udine Campoformido.
Photo courtesy of Italian Air Force.

Udine Campoformido sounding station celebrates 50th anniversary

On September 19th, at Campoformido Airport, close to Udine, Italy, a ceremony was held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the radiosounding station.

Colonel Emilio Rossi, Chief of 2nd Fighter Wing expressed words of appreciation for the radiosounding operators. They carry out very important work in collecting meteorological data using high technology, such as upper-air radiosonde observations.

Udine sounding station has been operational since September 1st, 1957, with two radiosoundings per day (at 00:00 and 12:00 UTC). Seasonally intermediate launches (at 06:00 am and 06:00 pm) have also been carried out.

The operators of the Udine radiosounding station have committed to several initiatives over the years, for example: the February-September 1982 ALPEX international meteorological

campaign and the September-November 1999 MAP (Mesoscale Alpine Program) for the study of Alpine phenomena.

Udine sounding station also holds a record: the highest altitude with a sounding was reached on 25th June 1986, when the radiosonde climbed to 43,193 m (2 hPa).

Vaisala equipment used at all stations in Italy

Vaisala radiosondes have been launched from the Udine radiosounding station since the early 1980s, when automation was introduced in upper air measurements. Since then, Vaisala has implemented several technological upgrades at the Air Force radiosounding stations.

Today, they use the Vaisala Radiosonde RS92 at all stations in Italy.

Within the WMO worldwide network, the Italian Air Force maintains six radiosounding stations, which are distributed over the national territory. Four additional autosonde stations exist in Italy.

Vaisala radiosounding systems are widely used in Italy also by the research community, such as the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and the Environment; University of L'Aquila; and the Italian Space Agency, CNR.

Vaisala and its partner in Italy, Eurelettronica Icas, wish to take this opportunity to greet and thank old and new friends at the radiosounding stations around Italy. ■