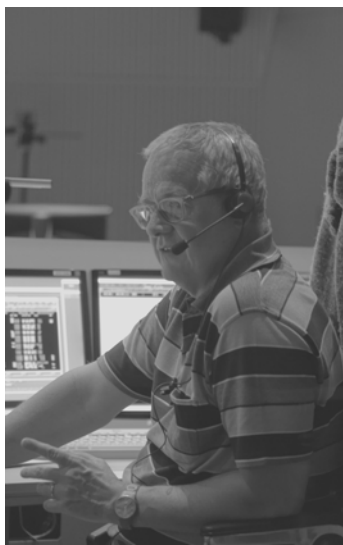


## MSG-3 GROUND OPERATIONS TEAM CONCLUDES SIMULATION CAMPAIGN AND IS READY FOR LAUNCH ON 5<sup>th</sup> JULY!!

MSG-3 Spacecraft Operations Engineer (SOE) Joel Rosen about the Simulation Officers: *"This guys are dangerous. They hit a button and it takes us 4 hours to solve the problem!"*...Nevertheless, today a stronger and well-capacitated Ground Operations Team concluded its intensive training for the Launch of the new Meteosat Second Generation, MSG-3, next Wednesday July 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Simulation campaign, started last march, had a very tight schedule ahead but counting with



very experienced team lead by The Operations Directors (OD) Mr. Nigel Head and Mrs. Nic Mardle and the

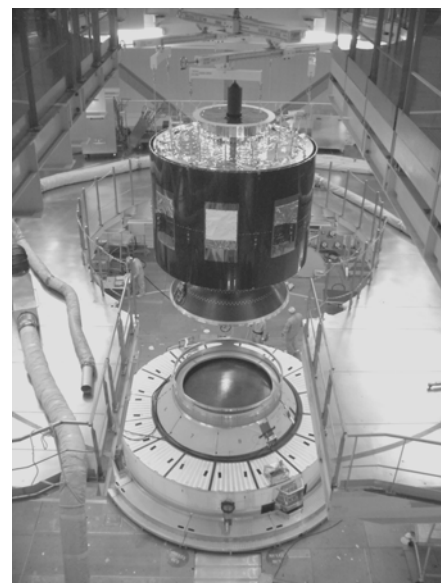
Spacecraft Operations Managers (SOM) Mr. Christopher J. Watson and MR. Rolf Maarschalkerweerd. The team is composed by Flight Control Team (FCT) lead by CJ Watson himself, Operation Managers lead by Mr. Luca Foiadelli, Flight Dynamics (FD) lead by Mr. Xavier Marc, Software Support (SWS) lead by Mr. Gianpiero Di Girolamo, Project Support Team (PST) lead by Mr. Luis Huertas Martin and Customer Representative from Eumetsat lead by Mr. Paolo Pili.

The campaign started with light contingency situations where Simulation Officers Mr. Joe Bush and Mr. Gustavo Baldo Carvalho gradually increased the level of difficulty testing the team interaction and its capacity to quickly respond to diverse situations involving not only spacecraft failures and mission control system problems but creative situations around human behavior and stress factors. (*"I'm just doing the time correlation in my head"* said Nigel Head once).



To that, one would remember that paper inputs were sometimes required where again Sim-Officers took the opportunity to confuse the team printing them in mirror to which Rolf with excellent humour responded: *"...I'll call maintenance to provide a mirror for better readability"*

Quite often, the MSG legacy Simulator called BMOTT (Behavioral Model Test Tool) adapted for MSG-3 had to be corrected, giving Sim-Officers and the whole team some difficult situations and intense headaches as remembered by Rolf: *"The simulator has to be reminded about FD expectations!"*





But everyone always felt safe, that the operations was always heavily guarded by the brave and cute little toy dog named Roberto, that always follows his master C J Watson.

And as expected, very quickly the whole team improved and faced tricky situations as virus, simulated bombs and even bugged stacks with missing commands that resulted in some internal daily humor spoken by the team members: *"Mind the Stack"*. (PS: AOCs SOEs Mr. Sylvain Lodiote and Mr. Kees Van Der Pols are still counting the commands).

Pushing his fate, the Spacecraft Operations Engineer and Deputy SOM Mr. Sylvain Lodiote, claimed in the middle of the campaign that Simulations were a bit relaxed and that a bit of stress was missing...well he did not know that following simulations would be like a truck smashing the Mission Control Room (MCR). In the second part of the campaign the contingencies were not

any more simple and isolated. Intense and tricky situations start appearing every single session, sometimes causing lunch time loss for despair of a certain SOE.

The situation got even dangerous (off course not for real...well, who knows?) for Sim-Officers once when responding to a challenge from the SOM. Preparing the so called "Simulation of Death", Sim-Officers used a tricky combination of difficult sun pointing attitude, negative spin direction and intense He tank external leak, what put the team to face a simulated cruel fate of losing the spacecraft. Nevertheless, during the simulation, the real objective of exercising rapid thinking under stress was achieved with demonstrated intense team work, creativity, pro-activity and motivation.

(Please don't ask any team member what they think about Sim-Officers...Everyone knows...it is part of the Job!)



was also not a problem once the team was always ready to *"polish a cannonball"* as stated once by Spacecraft Operations Engineer Kees Van Der Pols.

And For the sadness of DHSS SOEs Silvia Sangiorgi and Aurelian Tomescu, the famous and common failure of the begin of campaign never appeared again..."Ave RTU!"

And now, while the team is planning for the future, MSG-3 is safe for its incoming LEOP in the hands of such a talented and dedicated team...ready and in time! ■

By Joe Bush and Gustavo Baldo Carvalho  
MSG-3 Simulation Officers



Well, we can say that someone got hurt, simulated at least, when our dear Spacecraft controller (SPACON) Mirjam Boere was required to use some bandages around her fingers to simulate an accident that would prevent her to substitute one of her colleagues. And also lucky guys Narayanan Krishnamurthy and Mauro Delben that were saved by ESOC Security in an exercise when they discovered a beeping fake bomb between their legs in the MCR.

However the biggest Villain ever was the communication system Voice loop, many times called by many as the *"Humiliation Loop"*. How many ODs, SOMs, SOEs and Sim-Officers after clear mistakes had to bend to its power...

And we can say that precision

