

MSG-3 MISSION CONTROL TEAM CONCLUDES LEOP AND START A VERY INTENSE FAREWELL CAMPAIGN...ONE WEEK FULL OF DRINKS!!

Long and intense was the task of MSG-3 Mission Control Team during almost 12 days LEOP after so hard Sims Campaign. Nevertheless, it looks like the team has not yet isolated their strength and are even capable to burn an extra week of full commemorations and drinks!

The LEOP started on 5th July 13:52 local time with the ESOC first contact to ARS (Ariane Space operations contact in Kourou) in the soft voice of the OD Nic Mardle: "ARS, OD, I hear you Loud and Clear."

Also "Loud and Clear" would be the whole well behaving LEOP operation. It was 14:35 when ARS called OD declaring Spacecraft was switched ON...and so started the big moment that will remain in everyone thoughts for a life time.

Boldly and proud starts the FCT-B team at 15:30 with the Launch Pad checks and preparations. Long wait however till the spacecraft Transmitter was declared ON



at 17:28. Regardless of tension, the team demonstrated great humour and confidence. Very funny was to hear during one of the roll calls that even the cute MSG legacy frog Cooper answered in the loop: "Cooper Go!" (Thanks Nic!)

At 21:34 FCT-A is loud and clear in the loops and ready for the latest checks before Liftoff. Everyone was very anxious when at 23:36 it was finally heard in the loops directly from Kourou Space Port in the voice of ARS: "mis a feu...Lift off!"...MSG-3 was finally flying to become another star in the skies.

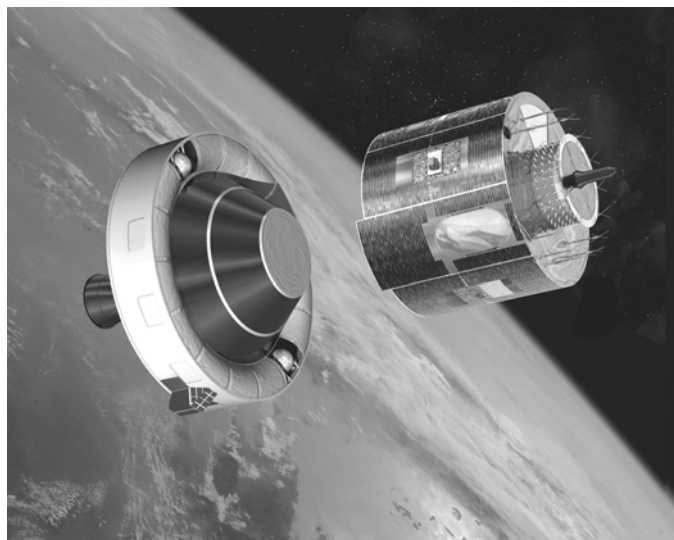
Tension was raising when at 23:59 OM confirms AOS in Ground Station Malindi and someone shouting in the back..."He-he-he-hey-yes-yes-yes". The tension was however

not completely leaked till the first NOP command went through at 00:13 on 6th and when FD declared: "We had a very good injection!"

Apprehension was felt at 00:51 when AOCS-SOE Sylvain Lodi reports Thrusters at 10 C higher but still inside limits. However with a good touch of humour, SOM CJ Watson comments that thrusters are in continuous illumination and are then "Barbecuing".

Sandman was already taking over of the brave Mascot Roberto when at 03:43 the Spin-up manoeuvre started...

After days of tension, even the water pipes in WC next to MCR broke. Some claim they know the cause!



Finally on 16th the Handover was performed to the customer EUMETSAT and right the next day the last link to the spacecraft was disconnected from ESOC...the dream is over!

Now it was time to start the commemorations. Right on 17th evening an ESOC official celebration was held in the canteen. It was heard that after some drinks certain team members could not distinguish anymore Water mixed with Apfel Saft from real Sekt.

The celebrations however where only beginning! In the next day, keeping a promise, the Sim Officer Baldo brought his guitar to the Bayerisches Bier Garten and flood his colleagues with a lot of Beatles songs. Even a MSG-3 inspired Yesterday was sang in an "Almost" perfect FCT choral.

MSG-3 Yesterday's (BALDO)

Yesterday,
all my commands sent so far away
Now it looks as they're here to stay
Oh, I believe in yesterday.

Suddenly,
Oh the SOM was looking over me
All his shadows hanging I could see.
Oh, yesterday, in MSG.

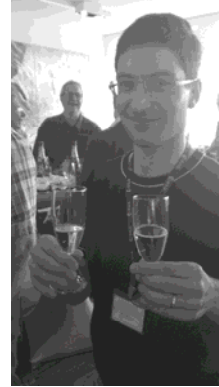
Why she had to go, I do know, it had to be
I sent no sequence wrong, now I long for MSG.

Yesterday,
Sims were not a easy game to play.
Now I need a place to hide away.
Oh, I believe in MSG

Why she had to go, I do know, it had to be
I sent no sequence wrong, now I long for MSG.

Yesterday,
Sims were not a easy game to play.
Now I need a place to hide away.
Oh, I believe in MSG

Somm, Somm, Somm, Somm, Somm, Som, Som



Thanks to the brave SOM that also got the guitar in his hands and delighted his colleagues with some songs, everyone got inspired to do a number, filling the evening with a multicultural symphony.

The celebrations however

continue till next Friday! Today for example, due the impressive result Spain 4 x 0 Italy on EUROCOPIA 2012 finals, the unfortunate SPACON Mauro Delben is going to pay 2 bottles of wine to his friend Mirjam Boere. It is however expected that Gianpiero is also going to offer nice Sicily wine to his friends as usual.



An now the end is near...and everyone is longing for their days in MSG-3. Most were distant from their families while performing their duties for the success of the mission. It is however certain that everyone is going to treasure their moments in this wonderful team called the MSG-3 family. ■



by Gustavo Baldo Carvalho
MSG-3 Simulation Officer