1^{st} Workshop on Science and Technology through Long Duration Balloons

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Scientific Organizing Committee

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Sponsorship

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FOREWORD

Science teams around the world have made use of stratospheric research balloons to conduct experimentation through various disciplines and for as many reasons. High altitude balloons have been the vehicle of choice as the cost efficient method to carry on investigations of space, our atmosphere, and our planet. Balloons have proven to be not only cost efficient, but as a rapidly deployable means to gain access to the heavens. Once at the prescribed float altitude, a science platform experiences an exposure to its objectives for several hours to several weeks, at a reasonable cost compared to other research platforms, such as satellites. After the science objectives are met, the balloon flight is terminated in a safe zone and the payload brought back to the Earths surface under a parachute canopy, ready to be recovered and flown again.

Some of the most successful Long Duration Balloon (multiple-day) experiments have found their origins in Italy over the past 50 years. As there are several new Italian based experiments being proposed for near future campaigns and the Italian Space Agency developing new balloon launch locations, we have decided to hold a workshop where we can introduce balloon development in Europe, meet experimenters, answer questions and share ideas.

One of the key components that helps to insure the future of Italian, as well as all European ballooning, is the emphasis on introducing students to the experimental and operational aspects of performing research using stratospheric balloons. Bringing students to a workshop such as this can help to inspire their involvement, which opens doors to fresh ideas, creativity, as well as a secure future of scientific and even commercial high altitude ballooning.

This workshop offers the opportunity for parties with a common interest in ballooning to gather, for discussions and planning of future ballooning objectives. The workshop also provides proceedings, and a white paper to be presented to ASI (Comitato Tecnico Scientifico) for the preparation of a call for proposals for ballooning, demonstrating and detailing the interest of a wide scientific community.

The Organizing Committee:
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