When COVID-19 virus stopped our day by day life the Organizers of MetroAeroSpace were forced to decide what to do; delete the conference? Move to the next year? Or to go to a virtual conference? If virtual what type of “virtual”? We remember a lot of discussions and decisions assumed in few days! The number of abstracts submitted at the end of February was about 150, too many colleagues submitting their research efforts waited our decisions. Anyway, at beginning of March 2020 nobody had idea what to do.

We eventually decided to move MetroAeroSpace as a LIVE virtual conference. To this aim, Athena Srl, the Company managing the conference, set up a specific software framework called “WeConf” for the management of LIVE virtual conferences.

MetroAeroSpace as LIVE virtual conference was a heavy task to manage but we tried to recreate on the web the “spirit” of MetroAeroSpace; a place where to discuss, to cooperate, to create new contacts. The choice of a LIVE virtual conference gave us these opportunities.

As a matter of fact, since the first edition, MetroAeroSpace represents the traditional international meeting place in the world of research in the field of measurement and instrumentation for aerospace involving institutions and academia in a discussion on the state-of-the-art concerning issues that require a joint approach by experts of measurement, instrumentation and industrial testing, as professional engineers, and experts in innovation metrology, typically academics and the user community as well. The increasing number of scientists attending MetroAeroSpace and coming from fields at times far from engineering, led to a positive hybridization of the conference.

MetroAeroSpace 2020 was jointly organized by Pasquale Daponte, University of Sannio, Italy, Bernardo Tellini, University of Pisa, and Robert Rassa, Raytheon, US, acting as
executive co-chairs. Technical Program Chairs were Stephen Dyer, Kansas State University, US, Stefano Debei, University of Padua, and Luca De Vito, University of Sannio. Mirko Marracci and Alice Buffi, University of Pisa, acted as Publicity Chair. Cosimo Stallo, University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Italy, served as Treasury Chair. Honorary Chair was Marina Ruggieri, University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Italy.

A Special Track on Military Metrology for AeroSpace was organized by AFCEA Naples Chapter with patronage of AFCEA Europe, more information are available at; http://www.metroaerospace.org/military/

The technical program of the 7th IEEE International Workshop on Metrology for AeroSpace was arranged after the reception of 149 abstracts from all over the world. Due to high demand only 119 papers could be selected after competitive peer review. Authors from 18 countries attended the Workshop. All papers submitted to MetroAeroSpace 2020 that have been accepted in a peer-reviewed process are published in the proceedings of the Workshop and the proceedings have been submitted for indexing in the IEEE Xplore Digital Library.
The technical program included several events and activities. The keynote speeches were held by experts in the field of metrology for aerospace:

- Domenico Accardo, Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Naples 'Federico II', Italy spoke about “Aerospace on-board system architectures perspectives: embedded systems, sensor data fusion, and autonomy”
- Felix Opitz, Airbus Defence and Space GmbH, Germany, dealt with Situation Awareness through Data Analytics and Machine Learning based on Trajectories.

The Workshop included a half day of tutorials:

- **Introduction to the ‘Conceptional design of space science imagers’,** Harald Michaelis, DLR, Institute of Planetary Research - Germany
- **Bayesian Data Analysis applied to Plasma measurements in electric thrusters**, Manuel Martín Saravia, DICI-University of Pisa
- **Infrared thermography in the aerospace sector**, Carosena Meola, University of Naples 'Federico II', Italy

It is worth to note the traditional Special Session on Metrology for Radar Systems organized by Alfonso Farina, LFIEEE, Distinguished Lecturer of AESS and Silvia Ullo, University of Sannio, Italy. This session is attracting every year more and more scientists in this engaging research field.

Of course due to virtual approach no demo and poster sessions were organized. It is worth to know that registration fees were reduced of about the 50% compared the “in advance” registration fees fixed for the on site conference.

To encourage the attendance in particular of young researchers, some awards were offered:
Best paper of the 7th IEEE International Workshop on Metrology for AeroSpace;
“Modeling and Calibration of Wide Range of Motion Biaxial Inclinometers for Celestial Navigation”
Ilija Jovanovic, John Enright, Ryerson University, Canada

Best paper authored and presented by a woman;
Damira Smagulova, Elena Jasiuniene, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania

Best paper authored and presented by a young researcher;
“Application of dispersed microresonator based sensor for aerospace-related tasks”
Anton Saetchnikov, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany, Belarusian State University, Belarus

Best Paper of the Special Session on Metrology for Radar Systems;
“Gait Recognition using FMCW Radar and Temporal Convolutional Deep Neural Networks”
Pia Addabbo, “Giustino Fortunato” University, Mario Luca Bernardi, University of Sannio, Filippo Biondi, University of L'Aquila, Marta Cimitile, Unitelma Sapienza University, Danilo Orlando, “Niccolò Cusano” University, Italy, Carmine Clemente, University of Strathclyde, UK.

Award Ceremony

We think that MetroAeroSpace 2020 was a successfully event and our decision to go LIVE and virtual was a winning choice! We experimented a new way of organizing a scientific conference and we think that future conferences should include a LIVE virtual presentations, too.
Anyway, we hope that 8th IEEE International Workshop on Metrology for AeroSpace to be held in Naples, Italy, June 23-25, 2021 will give again us the opportunity to meet each other in person. To this aim take note about the fundamental dates for 8th IEEE International Workshop on Metrology for AeroSpace:

- January 31, 2021 – Submission of Extended Abstracts
- March 28, 2021 – Notification of Acceptance
- April 30, 2021 – Submission of Final Papers

We are pleased to invite you to contribute to the 8th International IEEE Workshop on Metrology for Aerospace. The event includes, but it is not limited to, new technology for metrology-assisted production in aerospace industry, aircraft component measurement, sensors and associated signal conditioning for aerospace, calibration methods for electronic test and measurement for aerospace.
Special Sessions have the main aim of creating a mini-workshop on a specific topic, where researchers working on the same argument can catalyze knowledge, familiarize and exchange ideas, create cooperations. You may find more on how to submit a Special Session proposal at:

www.metroaerospace.org/index.php/program/special-session

For more information, please contact: Pasquale Daponte, email: daponte@unisannio.it