



Consulate General of Italy in Philadelphia



2013 ANNO DELLA CULTURA ITALIANA
YEAR OF ITALIAN CULTURE

FLYING HIGH FROM HELICOPTERS TO SPACE Italy and the United States Fifty Years of Technological Partnership

Wednesday, March 20th 2013, 10.00 am – 12.30 pm
College of Engineering Drexel University
Bossone Research Center, Mitchell Auditorium

1. Synopsis

It is widely known that the first country to have launched a satellite into space was the USSR in 1957 with the Sputnik, followed by the United States Explorer the year after. Still, few are aware that Italy came third in the 1960s conquest of space, and the first in Western Europe.

In December 1964, two years after the signing of the agreement on space cooperation between Italy and the United States, from the American base in Wallops Island a team of Italian engineers, headed by Prof. Luigi Broglio, launched the satellite "San Marco 1", using a NASA "Scout" rocket. The Italian space program thus began.

On the occasion of the Year of Italian Culture in the United States, the Consulate General of Italy in Philadelphia is organizing a conference to celebrate fifty years of close technological and scientific collaboration in the space and aerospace industries between Italy and the United States.

At the prestigious College of Engineering at Drexel University, Alicia Vitarelli, an Anchor for 6abc (WPVI) Action News, will moderate the debate. Astronauts Roberto Vittori of the Italian Space Agency and Paul W. Richards of NASA will share their professional journeys with professors, researchers and students, discussing possible career opportunities in the space and aerospace fields. Mario Cosmo, Technical Director of the Italian Space Agency will also take part to the panel.

William Hunt, CEO of AgustaWestland Philadelphia – a leader in the world's most important helicopter markets – will open the conference with a keynote speech.

As a matter of fact, Philadelphia hosts one of the most important manufacturing plants of the company owned by Finmeccanica, the second largest industrial group and the largest of the hi-tech industrial groups based in Italy.

Italian and American excellence in the space and aerospace industries will be the focus of the round table, which undoubtedly represents one of the key events of the Year of Italian Culture in Philadelphia.

2. Expectations

Ms. **VITARELLI** will give a brief introduction and welcome the participants.

Ms. Vitarelli will also moderate the Q&A after the panel.

The conference will be scheduled as follows.

- Opening Remarks:

10.00 – 10.10

Prof. Bruce **EISENSTEIN**, Vice Dean College of Engineering
- Opening and Welcome Remarks

10.10 – 10.20

Mr. Luigi **SCOTTO**, Consul General of Italy in Philadelphia
- Consul Scotto will address the audience about the long-standing technological and scientific cooperation between Italy and the United States in space and aerospace industries.

- Keynote speech

10.20 – 10.40

Mr. William **HUNT**, CEO AgustaWestland Philadelphia
- AgustaWestland is the first high tech Italian company ranked among the top ten global players in aerospace, defence and security. Young and brilliant Italian and American managers, engineers and workers make AgustaWestland Philadelphia one of the most important industrial companies in Pennsylvania.

- Panel discussion

10.40 – 11.40

Roberto **VITTORI**, Astronaut (ASI - Italian Space Agency)

- The Italian Space Program since 1962
- Launchers and Satellites
- Manufacturing Processes and Engineering Solutions
- SpaceX Model
- Existing designs, projections and new perspectives of alternative architectures

Paul W. **RICHARDS**, Astronaut (NASA Goddard Space Flight Center)

- Engineering Education and Co-operative

- Education Careers in the Space Industry
- Return on Investment for the Space Industry

Mr. Mario **COSMO**, Technical Director (ASI - Italian Space Agency)

- 11.40 – 12.00 Q&A

The audience will comprise students, academic personnel (professors, researchers) and media.

- 12.00 – 12.30 Reception kindly sponsored by AgustaWestland Philadelphia.

3. Facilities

Mitchell Auditorium is located on 1st floor. The room has a capacity of 300 people and it is equipped with:

- HD projection
- high quality sound system
- stage
- podium
- microphone
- speaker

4. Attire

Business casual

5. Contacts

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