tpgroup

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Hello! I am Emilia Barbagallo and I am currently working as a Sapienza Consulting contractor for the European Space Agency (ESA), holding a position of EGSE Software Engineer, in the Ground Software Systems and Functional Verification Section at ESTEC, the European Space Research and Technology Centre in the Netherlands.

Since my graduation in 2006, I have been working in the Aerospace Industry, particularly in the Ground Segment support activities.

I studied Electronics Engineering at the University of Catania, my home town in Italy. My inclination to learning and further developing as an Engineer brought me to leave my home town after my graduation and to join a consulting company in Florence, where I spent over 5 years working as a Software Engineer. In this context, I started gaining experience in ground segment systems for space projects, working with major customers.

In 2012 I took the large step to move to the Netherlands and to join a company that provides space and ground segment systems. The experience in an international environment has been very formative and encouraging: this led me to tackle a new challenge and apply for a contractor position with Sapienza Consulting for the European Space Agency in 2013.
Being selected to work in ESTEC has allowed me to start a fruitful and gratifying work experience, which has been evolving for more than seven years now and has allowed me to work in a number of ESA projects like EarthCARE, Sentinel-2, SGEO, CHEOPS, EUCLID, Bepi Colombo, Solar Orbiter, EDRS-C, ELECTRA.

Since 2014 I am part, as Software and Database Engineer, of the ESA METEOSAT Third Generation (MTG) team. The MTG programme will provide Europe and, by extension, the International Community, with an operational satellite system with enhanced capabilities to support accurate prediction of meteorological phenomena and to allow monitoring of climate and air composition.
I take care of the data and software management of the Spacecraft Reference Database (SRDB) and

of the Spacecraft Characterisation and Calibration Database (SCCDB), handling customer-supplier interfaces and addressing the configuration management challenges of the databases and their relationship with other satellite elements.

I monitor the progress in the data verification and validation activities, supporting industry in defining adequate processes and reporting project team on the achieved data quality, for the execution of system verification tests and in preparation of satellite operations.
The best thing of taking care of all these tasks in a project like MTG is that I have the possibility to work in a tight relationship with industries, customers and business partners: I love to interact with engineers and scientists with different experience and different background, all working together for the preparation of the satellites launch and commissioning.

The launch of the first MTG satellite is approaching, the pressure is on and we are all looking forward to be together for such an amazing event!