The collaborative Group of the AlphaSat Aldo Paraboni propagation Experimenters (ASAPE) is an open forum of researchers performing propagation campaigns with the Aldo Paraboni payload and other satellite payloads at Ka band. Topics include: instruments, design and execution of campaigns, data analysis, use of remote sensing and meteorological data and use of numerical weather products. The group intends also to be a reference on the use of measurements for the development of models and theoretical advances and to actively pursue transfer of results to industry and into radio regulations.

The group held its 2nd General Assembly on October the 13th 2015, during the 21st Ka and Broadband Communications Conference.

This main objective meeting was to review the progress of the experiment in Europe and to plan for future activities.

The meeting was organised and chaired by:

Prof. Carlo Riva (Politecnico di Milano, Italy)
Dr. Antonio Martellucci (ESA/ESTEC, Noordwijk, The Netherlands)

The final agenda of the meeting was:

1. Opening, Approval of the Agenda, List of Participants

2. Report on Coordination of scientific campaigns among European projects
   - Summary on the SCIEX experiments C. Riva
   - Overview of ESA activities for RW propagation campaigns, A. Martellucci

3. Reports of Experimenters on campaigns, algorithms and technology developments:
   - A new data format for Satellite Propagation Experiment Exchange SPEX
     Dr. Alberto Graziani, UCL, Belgium
   - An overview of the Propagation Data Processing System, for Alphasat data analysis
     Prof. Danielle Vanhonenacker, UCL, Belgium.
   - First experiences with Aldo Paraboni Alphasat SCIEX experiment in Prague
     Dr. Ondrej Fiser, IAP, Czech Republic
   - Status of Alphasat SCIEX station in Budapest after the first year of operation
     Prof. Csurgai-Horváth László, BUTE, Hungary
   - Alphasat Propagation Experiment in Madrid
     Processing of the Q-band Measurements
     Prof. José Manuel Riera, UPM, Spain
   - Alphasat SCIEX Ka e Q band Stations in Rome
     Prof. Frank Silvio Marzano, University La Sapienza, Italy
   - The planning for large scale propagation campaign using Alphasat SCIEX
     Dr. Spiros Ventouras, RAL/STFC, UK
4. Planning for next meetings and activities

5. Conclusions/AoB

The documents of this meeting will be made available by the end of October, on a WEB sharefolder accessible to registered ASAPE members. More than 30 participants attended the meeting, some of who followed the meeting by WEB videoconference. The participants to the meeting came several organisations including:

- Univ. Of Vigo (Spain)
- Joanneum Research (Austria)
- FFI (Norway)
- CNR (Italy)
- CMI (Czech Republic)
- Univ. of Aveiro (Portugal)
- National technical University of Athens (Greece)
- Herriot Watt University (Scotland, UK)
- AFRL (USA)
- NASA (USA).

The presentations were followed by a general discussion on the different aspects related to the execution of the propagation campaign and the development of key technologies and algorithms for data analysis. Preliminary results include the use of these types of measurements also for remote sensing applications and radio science, with particular regard to the detection of atmospheric turbulence.

In general the campaign has progressed significantly since the 1st GA of ASAPE, on October 2014, with an increase in the number of operational stations and the production of the initial annual statistics from a number of locations. The discussion has put in evidence the need to improve collaboration among ASAPE participants on instrumental calibration and validation methods, data analysis and use of remote sensing, meteorological and Numerical Weather prediction data. The purpose of this activity will be also in view of the establishment of a Continental Network of Propagation Terminals for the characterisation of the spatial and temporal properties of the radio channel at Ka, Q and V band. In addition the ASAPE group has identified as a long-term objective, the evolution of measurements and modelling from Ka and Q to W band and from geostationary missions (like Alphasat) to new non-geostationary systems in LEO or MEO orbits.

The ASAPE group will hold an intermediate meeting on December 14th 2015, by WEB Videoconference, to progress on the organisation of the group in view of the 3rd General Assembly in 2016.

The participants to the ASAPE 2nd GA expressed their gratitude to the organisers of the Ka and Broadband Communications Conference, with particular regard to Mrs. Clotilde Canepa Fertini, Frank Gargione and Franco Marconicchio, for their continuous support to the activities of this group.