

The 'SatellitenPaul' Exhibition

in St Gallen, Switzerland

Paul Geissmann

For four weeks between April 17 and May 17, the town of St Gallen in northeast Switzerland was the scene for a remarkable exhibition staged by Paul Geissmann. Paul is an avid weather satellite enthusiast, and supports an interesting website dealing with his activities at

<http://www.satellitenpaul.ch/main.html>

Paul wrote an article about his passion in a local newspaper, and this led to matters blossoming way beyond his expectations. Paul takes up his story ...

The beginning of an exhibition is almost always due to an accident. A newspaper reporter comes along and sees all sorts of satellite disks and antennas emanating from a rustic Swiss barn. And so a small article written in a local newsletter started a chain reaction, a tipping point. Suddenly, I found that my somewhat remote satellite station was on the radar of several newspapers, private groups and organizations, all wanting to visit and learn more.

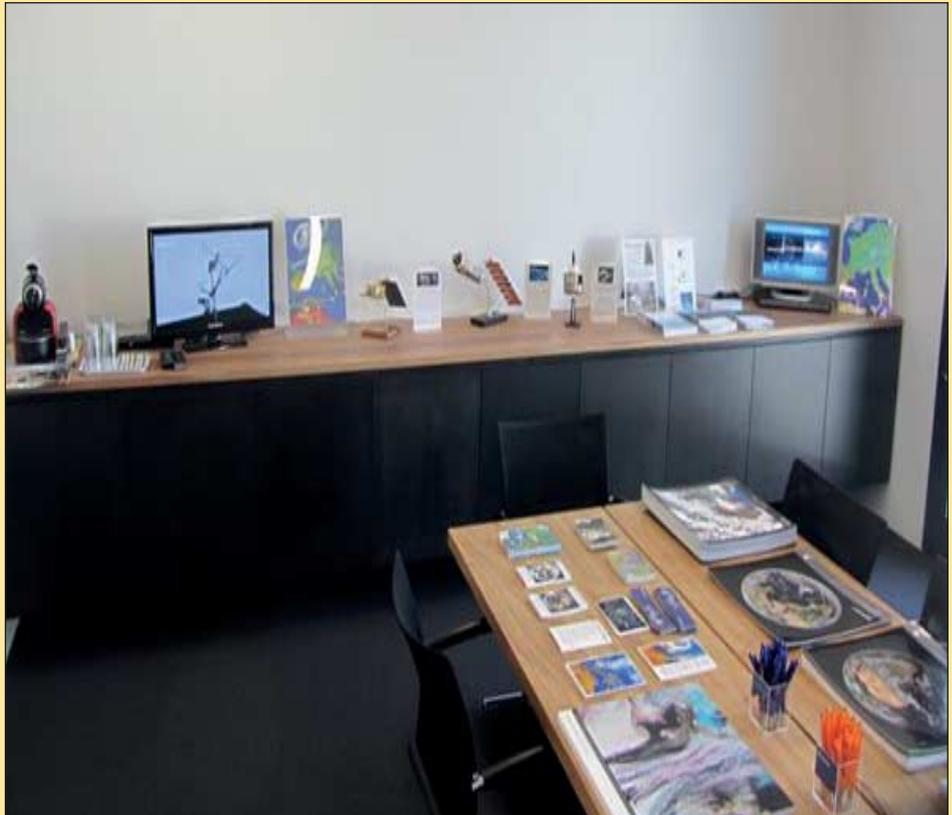
Because of this increased interest, I approached the *Raiffeisen Bank* in Wilkeln, St. Gallen, Switzerland regarding the possibility of putting together an exhibition in their building. Not only did the Bank express interest in hosting such a venture, but enthusiastically also offered to cover the necessary exhibition costs.

As a result, the exhibition *SatellitenPaul* was born, and for a full month, visitors to the *Raiffeisen Bank* were treated to a display of scale models of weather satellites, large high-resolution photographs of the world globe captured from weather satellites, and various literature and take-away materials.

The exhibition photography displayed at the venue was in the form of satellite world globe snapshots, were acquired by myself during February 2014, using software created by David Taylor. The photography included ten different 80 x 80 cm high gloss, high resolution global views.

The display also included three scale models of weather satellites obtained from my good friend Men Schmidt, an optical specialist for NASA and ESA. A fourth weather satellite model on display, approximately 1.2 meters tall and 80 cm in diameter, was borrowed from Meteosat-7, Meteo Group, Switzerland in Appenzell.

The EUMETSAT Help-Desk (Debbie, Pam, and Maria) was happy to participate as well. They provided various giveaways and promotional items, including world globe pictures, pens, and USB sticks. *Meteo*



The display of satellite models and imagery in the *Raiffeisen Bank*.



A table-top model of Metop-A

Switzerland contributed gifts for the visitors too, in the form of educational pamphlets about the weather.

The highlight of the *SatellitenPaul* exhibition occurred on May 10, with shuttle bus escorts to my satellite station every half hour from 11 am till 3 pm for a close and personal tour. Visitors were also treated to a lunch consisting of bratwurst and drinks, compliments of *Raiffeisen Bank*.



The wall display of high-resolution photographs



The author, pictured beside the Meteosat-7 model