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Raw sampling data from GRAS

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EUMETSAT's MetOp-A satellite is the first of a series of three polar-orbiting, meteorological satellites that are planned to provide 14 years of advanced meteorological and climate observations. The satellite was successfuly launched on 19 October 2006, and is now in its commissioning phase. Among other instruments, MetOp carries the "GNSS Receiver for Atmospheric Sounding" (GRAS) exploiting radio occultation soundings of the atmosphere.

GRAS is the first GPS receiver custom build for radio occultation soundings from space. It provides more than 500 rising and setting occultations per day, exhibiting an advanced "raw sampling" (or open loop) measurement mode for lower tropospheric observations.

In this talk we will discuss the basic characteristics of the raw sampling mode of GRAS and present initial results from the first raw sampling measurements.