

PRESS RELEASE ECMWF 02-december-2015

Embargo: NO

Making life-saving weather information available to the most vulnerable

As part of its long-standing working relationship with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), ECMWF is offering a reduced-fee licence to enable more national weather services, primarily those from developing and least developed countries, to benefit from its full range of web-based charts.

ECMWF's extensive set of graphical products help National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the provision of effective operational weather forecasts and in particular in warning citizens of severe weather events. The new licence, which represents an affordable alternative to the full non-commercial licence already open to Members of the WMO, will allow more NMHSs to use these products.

ECMWF Director of Forecasts, Florence Rabier, said: *“Advance warnings are vital to allow authorities to take action to mitigate the effects of these events, and we are proud to be working with the WMO to ensure that their most vulnerable members have access to reliable and accurate weather information. This new licence gives access to all standard charts on the ECMWF website and to the ecCharts service, a suite of interactive web applications specifically designed to help forecasters in their daily work. As we observe a heightened frequency and intensity of extreme weather events as an effect of climate change, we hope that access to our web charts will allow forecasters to formulate weather predictions critical for citizens and emergency services alike.”*

Since early 2000, ECMWF has been offering charts on the web, mainly targeted at forecasters in its Member States. As part of the development of the new website, ECMWF has completely redesigned the way web charts are produced and displayed. The development work was based on the framework previously created for ecCharts in order to harmonise ECMWF web services, simplify their maintenance and save resources.

The redesign focused on improving both the user experience and the release process, making the new licence all the more attractive. In particular, ecCharts now provides a web

user interface to browse, customize and overlay ECMWF forecast products and a standard web service that enables the integration of graphical products in the forecaster's working environment.

ECMWF's graphical products do not require costly infrastructure or specialised IT staff, which makes them accessible to all. The only requirements are a standard Internet connection and a web browser.

WMO Deputy Secretary-General Jeremiah Lengoasa, said: "*Many National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) are benefiting from the non-commercial licence service of ECMWF and the access to the full range of ECMWF products. However, there are still a large number of WMO members, especially those from developing and least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which have not been able to obtain the non-commercial licence services of ECMWF due to budgetary and technical constraints. We see this new licence as an opportunity to ensure that forecasters can have access to the tools and information they need to protect those most at risk.*"

As we go to press, several countries are already trialling this new "Web NMHS Non-commercial licence (Charts)". ECMWF will publish more insights on the use of ecCharts by forecasters in weather services within the next few weeks.

- For more information about ECMWF, please contact pressoffice@ecmwf.int
- For more information about data services and licences, please contact: data.services@ecmwf.int

Notes to editors

- ECMWF is an intergovernmental organisation supported by 34 European States. It provides weather services with medium-range forecasts of global weather to 15 days ahead as well as with monthly and seasonal forecasts. ECMWF's computer system at its headquarters in Reading, United Kingdom, is one of the largest for meteorology worldwide and contains the world's largest archive of numerical weather prediction data. It runs a sophisticated medium-range prediction model of the global atmosphere and oceans. The National Meteorological Services of Member States and Co-operating States use ECMWF's products for their own national duties, in particular to give early warning of potentially damaging severe weather.
- ECMWF offers a range of licence agreements that enable researchers, WMO members, commercial users and satellite data providers to access ECMWF forecast products.

- Information about licences for ECMWF products is available at:
<http://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/accessing-forecasts/licences-available>
- Resources for WMO members:

Non-commercial licences for WMO members	
Permitted use	Strictly non-commercial use to fulfil national governmental obligations related to the protection of life and property, and for research projects and educational use
Services included	<p>Archive data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the world's largest meteorological archive • Tools for customised data retrieval and download <p>Web NMHS Non-commercial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to web charts • Create your own charts with ECMWF web tools <p>Full NMHS Non-commercial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the above • Access to the entire Catalogue of ECMWF Real-Time Products (volume restrictions may apply) • Tools to manage your own data transmission
Annual fee	Archive data £5,000 Web NMHS Non-commercial €3,500 Full NMHS Non-commercial €42,000
Eligibility	National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) that are members of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
Enquiries	Email: data.services@ecmwf.int Telephone: (+44) 118 9499 430

ECMWF also provides essential and additional data to WMO members free of charge, as well as:

- Atmospheric and ocean wave reanalysis:
<http://www.ecmwf.int/en/research/climate-reanalysis/browse-reanalysis-datasets>
- Multi-model medium-range ensemble forecasts (for research and education purposes):
<http://apps.ecmwf.int/datasets/data/tigge/>
- Sub-seasonal to seasonal (for research and education purposes):
<http://apps.ecmwf.int/datasets/data/s2s/>
- Atmospheric composition reanalysis and near-real time:
http://apps.ecmwf.int/datasets/data/macc_reanalysis/
- More datasets:
<http://apps.ecmwf.int/datasets>

For more information, visit <http://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/accessing-forecasts>