

DATA POLICY FOR METOP DATA AND PRODUCTS

The EUMETSAT Council, at its 55th meeting in June 2004, its 58th meeting in December 2005 and its 59th meeting in July 2006 approved the data policy for MetOp data and products which are specified in the EUMETSAT website at www.eumetsat.int.

THE EUMETSAT POLAR SYSTEM (EPS)

The EPS system consists of a series of MetOp satellites comprising instruments of EUMETSAT and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The EUMETSAT instruments include the Microwave Humidity Sounder (MHS), Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer (IASI), Advanced Scatterometer (ASCAT), Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment-2 (GOME-2) and the Global Navigation Satellite System Receiver for Atmospheric Sounding (GRAS).

The NOAA meteorological instruments include the Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR), Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit-A (AMSU-A) and the High Resolution Infrared Radiation Sounder (HIRS).

In accordance with the Agreement between EUMETSAT and NOAA on the Initial Joint Polar System (IJPS), EUMETSAT is entitled to establish access conditions for all data from the MetOp satellites. However, EUMETSAT will not control access to the data from the NOAA instruments on the MetOp satellites, unless in cases of data denial, as requested by NOAA (see below).

OWNERSHIP AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

EUMETSAT holds the full ownership and Intellectual Property Rights to those MetOp data and products that are generated by the above EUMETSAT instruments and the EUMETSAT Ground Segment.

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS TO METOP DATA AND PRODUCTS

1. ESSENTIAL METOP DATA AND PRODUCTS

All MetOp data and products that are described below are “essential” in accordance with the WMO Resolution 40 (Cg-XII). This means that access to these data and products is granted to all users without licence, without charge¹ and without conditions on use.

¹ “Without Charge” means that these MetOp data and products are available at no more than the cost of reproduction and delivery (including the cost of distribution, media, documentation, software licences, transmission, direct labour cost of any decryption key units), but without charge for the data and products themselves.

1.1 Real-time METOP Data (Direct Readout service)

- *Advanced High Rate Picture Transmission (AHRPT) Data*

The AHRPT service includes all local raw data generated by all instruments on-board MetOp, transmitted by a MetOp satellite in full resolution and in real-time.

- *Low Rate Picture Transmission (LRPT) Data*

The LRPT service includes a subset of the local raw data generated by the EUMETSAT and NOAA instruments of AMSU-A, MHS, HIRS, SEM and AVHRR Low Rate, transmitted by a MetOp satellite in real-time.

1.2 Near Real-time Global and Regional Products

- *Global and Regional Level 1 Products*

These include all global and regional level 1 MHS products, generated by the Core Ground Segment.

- *Global and Regional Level 2 Products*

These include global and regional level 2 products generated by the Core Ground Segment and/or the EUMETSAT Satellite Application Facilities (SAFs) and distributed in near real-time.

For a complete list of the near real-time global and regional level 1 and level 2 MetOp products, please turn to the EUMETSAT website at www.eumetsat.int.

2. OTHER METOP DATA AND PRODUCTS

Other MetOp Data and Products include all global and regional level 1 products of the IASI², ASCAT, GRAS and GOME-2 instruments that are generated by the Core Ground Segment.

Access to the above products is granted to all users without charge, and against the signature of a licence agreement. They may not be redistributed without transformation.

² Except for a subset, agreed by the EUMETSAT Council, for distribution via the Global Telecommunications System (GTS) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as “essential” products.

3. ARCHIVED AND OFF-LINE METOP DATA AND PRODUCTS

These include all archived MetOp data and products that are older than 24 hours and off-line MetOp data and products generated by the EUMETSAT Satellite Application Facilities (SAFs). Archived and off-line MetOp data and products are distributed on request via the EUMETSAT Data Archive.

Access to archived and off-line MetOp data and products is granted to all users without charge, without conditions on use, against the signature of a licence agreement.

For a complete list of the archived/off-line MetOp data and products, please turn to the EUMETSAT website at www.eumetsat.int. This list includes SAF products which are archived at the relevant EUMETSAT SAFs and which can be ordered via the EUMETSAT Data Archive.

DATA DENIAL

Data denial means that in case of a crisis or war situation, EUMETSAT may be requested by NOAA to deny access to direct-readout NOAA instrument data or global/regional products derived from the US instruments on the MetOp satellites. In these situations, only authorised users will continue to receive these data. During data denial, re-distribution by authorised users of data from NOAA instruments to any unauthorised third party is prohibited. In principle, data denial will not be implemented for more than 120 days, unless explicitly extended.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

EUMETSAT is not responsible for the cost of procuring the necessary receiving equipment of any user. All users are required to reimburse EUMETSAT for the cost of providing them with decryption key units that may be required.