

Press Release
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Copernicus: ECMWF signs agreement with the European Commission for next phase of climate and atmosphere monitoring services



The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts has signed an agreement with the European Commission to continue implementing the EU-funded Copernicus Climate Change Service and the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service on their behalf for the next seven years. The next phase of Copernicus will build on the success of the first, which began in 2014.

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) today announces the signing of a Contribution Agreement with the European Commission to continue the next phase of the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) and the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS). The Contribution Agreement was signed today by Timo Pesonen, European Commission's Director-General for Defence Industry and Space, and Dr Florence Rabier, Director-General, ECMWF.

The Copernicus component of the EU Space Programme is part of the European Union's visionary ambition for a sustainable and economically sound future for the benefit of all citizens. In this new phase, the European Union (EU) will secure the future of the ECMWF-implemented services for the next seven years, which will be built upon the success of the previous phase that started back in November 2014. Under the lead of the European Commission and ECMWF, with funding from the EU, both services have become the go-to source for reliable free-to-use data on climate change, atmospheric composition and air quality, and are now ready to undertake new challenges such as the upcoming Anthropogenic CO2 Monitoring and Verification Support capacity, amongst others. Thanks to the agreement, institutions, private companies, academia, media and international organisations across Europe and worldwide will continue to benefit from the quality-assured and freely accessible environmental data provided by the ECMWF-implemented Copernicus services.

The two ECMWF-implemented Copernicus services for Climate Change and Atmosphere Monitoring will be key actors in paving the way towards the achievement of the goals set by the European Green Deal and supporting the EU's target plan to further reduce net greenhouse emissions by at least 55% until 2030.

A look ahead

The agreement follows the new unified EU Space Programme Regulation that came into effect on May 12, 2021, consolidating Europe's position as a global player in space. It will entitle ECMWF to continue its important operational role within this context, not only implementing its two Services but also supporting other scientific EU projects.

The next seven years of the ECMWF-led Copernicus operation will enable the development of new products and encourage innovation through further downstream uptake of its free-to-use data by SMEs and start-ups supporting the green and digital transition. In light of the Sustainable Development Goals set out by the United Nations, ECMWF will continue to provide information for world-renowned institutions such as the World Meteorological Organization, the European Environment Agency and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and even enhance their supporting role to help tackle our planet's major environmental challenges. In addition, the agreement makes sure that the Copernicus services implemented by ECMWF can continue with their critical work in supporting Europe's climate change and adaptation policies across all relevant sectors – from agriculture to energy.

Built on expertise

Since its inception in 1975, ECMWF has established a worldwide reputation as a leading provider of global numerical weather prediction through its cutting-edge modelling techniques, extensive use of satellite data and its supercomputers, which are among the most powerful in Europe. With the opening of both its new data centre in Bologna, Italy, and its new offices in Bonn, Germany, ECMWF is strengthening its presence in continental Europe, hence enabling new opportunities for collaboration with European partners.

Timo Pesonen, European Commission's Director-General for Defence Industry and Space said: "The European Union has outlined an ambitious plan with the European Green Deal and programmes like Copernicus and institutions like ECMWF are at the heart of it. That is why we are very happy to continue the collaboration with ECMWF. The data and information products provided by Copernicus do not only help decision-makers make informed choices, they also benefit industries, businesses, academic bodies and all European citizens with the unified goal of creating a sustainable future for everyone."

Florence Rabier, Director-General of ECMWF, comments: "We are proud to be a key player in the EU's vision for a sustainable future. The signing of the new Contribution Agreement

allows us to continue implementing the Copernicus Climate Change and Atmosphere Monitoring Services for the next seven years. The agreement is a testament to the visionary ambition displayed by the European Commission, the expertise of ECMWF and its facilities, and the talent and dedication of all our staff. It also means the continuation of the hugely successful partnership between ECMWF and the EC. We are looking forward with excitement to Copernicus 2.0 and the next seven years.”

Jean-Noël Thépaut, Director of the Copernicus Services implemented by ECMWF, adds: “The Copernicus programme has achieved an incredible amount in the last seven years. As a service whose role is to monitor and inform through trustworthy data that is free to use, we have been able to support the European Union’s climate change mitigation and adaptation policies across all relevant economic sectors. This includes our planned CO2 Monitoring and Verification Support capacity and offering opportunities for further downstream uptake of data from SMEs exploring innovative ways to support the green transition.”

More information on the signing of the Contribution Agreement can be found here:

<https://climate.copernicus.eu/ecmwf-and-european-commission-renew-contract-copernicus-services>

<https://atmosphere.copernicus.eu/ecmwf-and-european-commission-renew-contract-copernicus-services>

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About ECMWF and Copernicus

Copernicus is the European Union’s flagship Earth observation component of the EU Space Programme, which operates through six thematic services: Atmosphere, Marine, Land, Climate Change, Security and Emergency. It delivers freely accessible operational data and services providing users with reliable and up-to-date information related to our planet and its environment. The Programme is coordinated and managed by the European Commission and implemented in partnership with EU Member States, the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), the

European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), EU Agencies and Mercator Océan, amongst others.

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) operates two services from the EU's Copernicus Earth observation component: the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) and the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS). It also contributes to the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS). ECMWF is an independent intergovernmental organisation supported by 34 states. It is both a research institute and a 24/7 operational service, producing and disseminating numerical weather predictions to its Member States. This data is fully available to the national meteorological services in the Member States. The supercomputer facility (and associated data archive) at ECMWF is one of the largest of its type in Europe and Member States can use 25% of its capacity for their own purposes.

ECMWF is expanding its location across its Member States for some activities. In addition to an HQ in the UK and Computing Centre in Italy, new offices with a focus on activities conducted in partnership with the EU, such as Copernicus, will be located in Bonn, Germany from Summer 2021.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service website can be found at <https://climate.copernicus.eu/>

The Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service website can be found at <http://atmosphere.copernicus.eu/>

More information on Copernicus: www.copernicus.eu

More information on the EU Space Programme: https://ec.europa.eu/defence-industry-space/eu-space-policy/eu-space-programme_en

EU Space Programme Regulation: [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/696 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Union Space Programme and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme and repealing Regulations \(EU\) No 912/2010, \(EU\) No 1285/2013 and \(EU\) No 377/2014 and Decision No 541/2014/EU](#)

The ECMWF website can be found at <https://www.ecmwf.int/>

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