



Zurich, 25th October 2010

Project Rad4Alp: Information bulletin no. 3 for radar users

The new radar products: improved quality – same price

- Standardised, considerably larger image: domain now 710 x 640 km (was 610 x 538 km)
- Much higher resolution (1 pixel = 1 km²)
- Far greater colour intensity: 256 gradations for the raw data product (was 16)
- On request deliverable in 2.5' intervals
- Orography / background available separately

The new products we recommend

| Your current product | | The new product we recommend | |
|----------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| Identifier | Description | Identifier | Description |
| PLC | RAIN, estimated precipitation covering the last 30 minutes | PRECIP | 2D; best instantaneous radar estimation of precipitation at ground level |
| PJC | RAIN, instantaneous estimated precipitation | | |
| OMC | OVERVIEW maximum reflectivity | | |
| PKC | RAIN, instantaneous estimated precipitation with SV | PRECIP-SV | Multi-2D, ground view; as PRECIP; side view of max. projections |
| TGN / TGC | TODAY, MAX RR, max echo + side view | | |

www-Swiss and www-Alps internet products

- Now also in **JPEG** as well as **GIF**
- Much higher resolution (1 pixel = 1 km²)
- Greater colour intensity
- On request deliverable in 5' intervals
- Orography / background available separately

Thanks to the standardised high quality offered, users are now able to create their own expanded views and animated image sequences; the process is straightforward.

The new internet products we recommend

| Your current product | | The new product we recommend | |
|----------------------|--|------------------------------|---|
| Identifier | Description | Identifier | Description |
| www-Swiss | RAIN, instantaneous estimated precipitation over Switzerland | www-Swiss | 2D; best instantaneous radar estimation of precipitation at ground level over Switzerland |
| www-Alps | RAIN, instantaneous estimated precipitation over the alpine region | www-Alps | 2D; best instantaneous radar estimation of precipitation at ground level over the alpine region |



Parallel operation

The new high-performance technology and broadband data transmission require a new radar information processing chain. Processing of the data will take place centrally at MeteoSwiss in Zurich.

The new radar server will go live end of **2010**. From that point on, data will be delivered in both the legacy and the new formats.

The data will be delivered to your current server using the current protocol but with a new filename.

This trial operation will continue until mid of 2011, after which the radar data will be generated on the new server only. Data during the trial is free of charge.

Test files

Initial test files in the new format are **available now** and can be downloaded from

ftp://ftp.meteoswiss.ch/outgoing/mbc/radar/sample_radar_data/sample_data.zip

Please note: 25% off radar data charges in 2011!

To make up for the fact that the radar stations Lema, La Dôle and Albis have to be taken out of commission during the upgrading work, all customers with an annual contract will receive a one-time overall discount of 25% on the costs of radar data delivered in 2011.

According to the actual project timetable, the reconstruction of Lema will take place in spring 2011, La Dôle in autumn 2011 and Albis in spring 2012.

Approval for two additional radars

In a move to improve civil protection preparedness for natural hazards, the Federal Council has recently approved the establishment of two further radar stations in Cantons Valais and Graubünden. This will do much to improve the redundancy of our radar network.

We have already identified a location in the Valais: the Pointe de la Plaine Morte at alt. 2'927 metres. This is a height that guarantees uninterrupted radar visibility across vast areas of the Western Alps and thus delivers an enormous performance gain in terms of additional weather information. Identification of a suitable location in Graubünden is currently underway.

Further information on Rad4Alp

MeteoSwiss keeps users regularly updated with news of the project's progress. Visit <http://www.meteoschweiz.admin.ch/web/de/klima/messsysteme/atmosphaere/radar.html> for details and the latest news.

We are keen to receive your feedback and questions. It helps us know what your needs are. Thank you.

To contact us please email:

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