



Zurich, 30 May 2011

## ***Rad4Alp project: Information bulletin no. 5 for radar users***

### **First radar system upgraded**

On 4 April the Lema radar was decommissioned. Within only 4 weeks, the old system was dismantled entirely, adjustments to the infrastructure were made, the components of the new radar at the foot of the Lema were installed and prepared for transport. They were then flown in to the Lema by helicopter, installed and commissioned for the first time. From 2 to 6 May, the radar specialists subjected the system to rigorous tests as regards performance and function. As of 6 May, the Lema radar is now in the pre-operational test phase. In this phase and in the initial phase of operation, the various parameter configurations are still being carried out along with an in-depth validation of the products.

As such, the Rad4Alp project to upgrade and expand the radar network has reached an important milestone on schedule thanks to the careful planning and committed work of everyone involved:

**As of June 2011, the first system of Switzerland's new fourth weather radar generation is going on stream.**



The components of the new weather radar were transported to Monte Lema by helicopter.

As of this moment in time, the new central server CCS4 produces the radar composites with Albis, La Dôle and Lema only in the new format. This means that radar users who have not migrated to the new format by the end of May 2011 will receive their radar composite only in the old format without Lema data.

### **Changes ahead**

The Rad4Alp team is convinced that it will be able to upgrade the La Dôle and Albis radar systems in an equally timely and successful manner. The next step will be to upgrade the La Dôle in the period between September and October 2011; the radar system on Albis will be the last system to be upgraded in spring 2012.

## Overview: The new radar composites

There are essentially two kinds of radar products available:

- **Numerical** composites and
- **Graphical** composites (gif or jpg), referred to as web

These products can be supplied in two forms:

- **RZC** are composites **without** side view
- **TZC** are composites **with** side view

The web products, in turn, are available with two different domains:

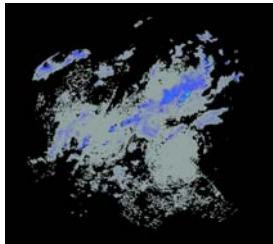
- **web-alps** products contain the standard domain of 710x640 km
- **web-swiss** products have a Switzerland-focused, smaller domain of 410x270 km

In the web-alps category, there are also products that show the radar echoes **only**, but not background/orography:

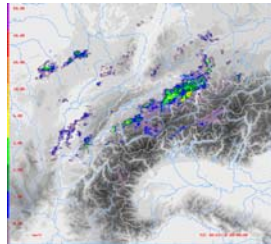
- The composite RZC-web-**transparent**
- The composite TZC-web-**transparent**

## Examples of composites:

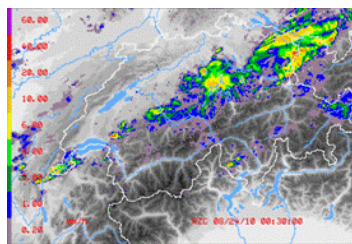
RZC numerical



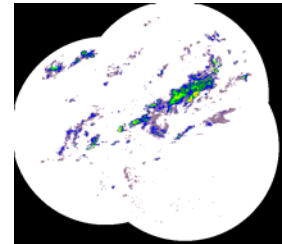
RZC web-alps



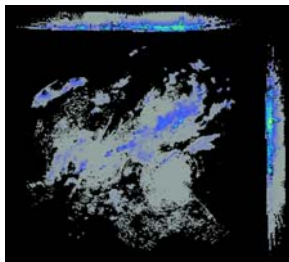
RZC web-swiss



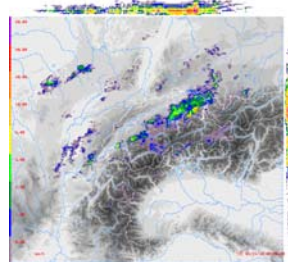
RZC web-transparent



TZC numerical



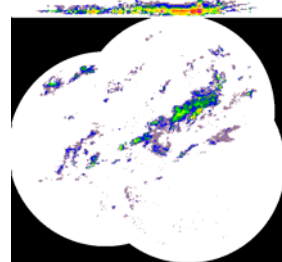
TZC web-alps



TZC web-swiss

(not available)

TZC web-transparent



The data are supplied on their previous server with the previous protocol, but with a new file name in accordance with the following table:

Name	Description	Directory	File name
PRECIP	2D; best instantaneous radar estimation of precipitation at ground level	RZC-numerical	meteoswiss.radar.precip.JJJJMMyygggg.gif
PRECIP-SV	Multi-2D, ground view; as PRECIP; with side view of max. projections	TZC-numerical	meteoswiss.radar.precip.sv.JJJJMMyygggg.gif
www-Alps	2D; best instantaneous radar estimation of precipitation at ground level over the alpine region	RZC-web-transparent	meteoswiss.radar.precip.www.alps.JJJJMMyygggg.gif
		RZC-web-alps	meteoswiss.radar.precip.www.alps.oro.JJJJMMyygggg.gif
	2D; best instantaneous radar estimation of precipitation at ground level over the alpine region; with side view of max. projections	TZC-web-transparent	meteoswiss.radar.precip.sv.www.alps.JJJJMMyygggg.gif
		TZC-web-alps	meteoswiss.radar.precip.sv.www.alps.oro.JJJJMMyygggg.gif
www-Swiss	2D; best instantaneous radar estimation of precipitation at ground level over Switzerland	RZC-web-swiss	meteoswiss.radar.precip.www.swiss.oro.JJJJMMyygggg.gif

If the radar products are to be supplied on a server other than the previous one, please send us the following additional information to [rad4alp\\_spoc@meteoschweiz.ch](mailto:rad4alp_spoc@meteoschweiz.ch) at your earliest convenience:

- Server name (IP address)
- Protocol: FTP, SCP, SFTP
- User name and password
- Target directory

### Further information on the Rad4Alp project

MeteoSchweiz regularly informs all users of the progress of the project. In addition, our website at the URL <http://www.meteoschweiz.admin.ch/web/de/klima/messsysteme/atmosphaere/radar.html> provides further detailed information and the latest updates.

We are keen to receive your feedback and questions. It helps us to know your needs. Many thanks.

To contact us, please write to:

**rad4alp\_spoc@meteoschweiz.ch.**