



Locarno-Monti, 11 August 2011

Rad4Alp project: Information bulletin no. 6 for radar users

Successful start with the new radar on Monte Lema

The new radar system on Monte Lema went on stream operationally at the end of May as scheduled and has since provided radar data and images of good quality with the familiar high reliability. In the background, the project team is working intensively on verifying the new products, calibrating the hardware and optimising the system configuration. The data quality is already pleasingly high. But there is of course room for improvement. The work currently focuses on optimising ground clutter suppression, further improving the quantitative precipitation estimation and calibrating the microwave receivers of horizontal and vertical polarisation. We are grateful for any customer feedback as regards the data quality. It helps us to prioritise the work.

The smooth upgrading and commissioning of the first system of the new fourth weather radar generation is an important result for the Rad4Alp project.

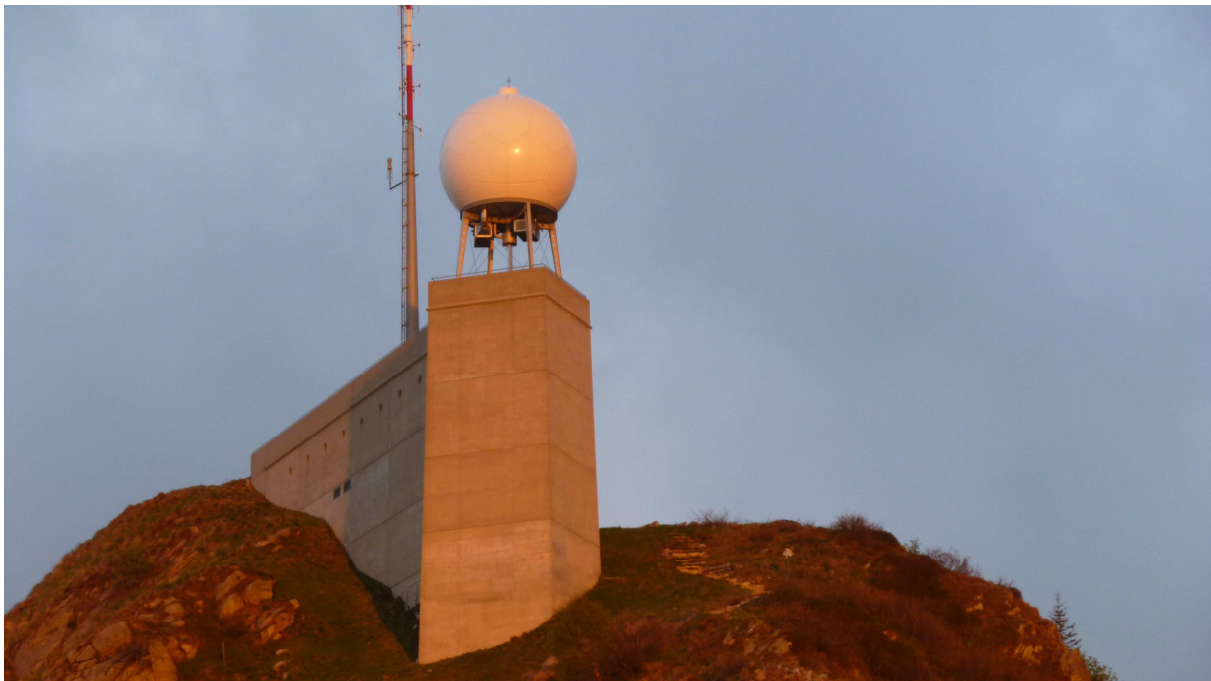


Figure: *The radar on Monte Lema in the morning sun of 6 May 2011 after its first night in operation.*

Upgrade of the radar on La Dôle

The upgrade of the second system is already on the agenda. On 22 August 2011 the work on La Dôle will begin. From this date until the commissioning of the new radar at the end of October 2011, no radar data will be available from La Dôle.

The roadmap of the upgrade is largely the same as that on Monte Lema. In addition to the cooperation of the partners SELEX, RUAG and BBL, we will also be supported by skyguide, the "landlord" of the local infrastructure, on La Dôle. We hope that the weather will be as equally pleasant as it was on Monte Lema, so that the dismantling, new installation, commissioning and the complex test phases can be completed as planned by the end of October.

During the planning on La Dôle, great importance was attached to improving visibility. Until now, the radar beam was strongly shielded from buildings close by towards the north east and south west across several degrees. Thanks to the benevolent support of skyguide, a good solution has been found. With the simultaneous raising of the weather radar antenna and the complete removal of the obstacle in the south west, the visibility of the weather radar and thereby the data quality can be improved significantly.

Note

After commissioning the new radar of La Dôle, the central server now processes the radar data from La Dôle in the new format only. Anyone who has already migrated to the new products of the new CCS4 server will receive the data of all radars as was previously the case. Anyone still using the old products of the old server CCS3 will receive only the data from Albis after the upgrade of La Dôle.

Albis upgrade

The Rad4Alp team is convinced that it will be able to complete the radar system on La Dôle successfully and on time. The radar system on the Albis is next in line for an upgrade in spring 2012.

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 know your needs. Many thanks.

For an overview of the new products, composites and formats, please refer to the previous customer letters. If you have further questions when completing the migration to the new products, do not hesitate to contact us.

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