P-I-3

The Hydrometeo system Flemish Banks

ir G. Dumon, Waterways and Maritime Affairs Administration – Coastal Waterways (B)
ing Ph. Hyde, Haecon n.v. (B)
E-mail: guido.dumon@lin.vlaanderen.be

The Waterways and Maritime Affairs Administration (AWZ) in Flanders manages a Hydrometeo System delivering current hydrological and meteorological measurements and marine meteorological forecasts. The Hydrometeo System consists of a measuring network, called “Monitoring Network Flemish Banks” (Meetnet Vlaamse Banken) and a marine forecast centre – OMS – “Oceanographic Meteorological Station”.

The monitoring network was set up for the acquisition of real-time oceanographic and meteorological data along the Belgian coast and continental shelf. The oceanographic parameters monitored are waves, tidal height, current and water temperature; meteorological parameters are wind, air pressure, air temperature and rainfall. The network consists of small measuring platforms on the North Sea with hydrometeo sensors, of wave buoys, meteorological stations and telemetric water level gauges at the coast. Twice a day, on a dedicated computer system, hydrodynamic models calculate forecasts for tidal elevation and wave conditions in the southern North Sea and along the Flemish coast.

The data resulting from the Monitoring Network are an important information stream for the AWZ Oceanographic Meteorological Station in Zeebrugge. At the OMS, marine meteorologists of the Belgian Royal Meteorological Institute produce marine weather forecasts of tidal heights, waves, wind and visibility along the coast and in the shipping lane to the coastal harbours and to the estuary of the River Scheldt.

Real-time measurements as well as forecasts are distributed in different ways: dedicated links to internal and external users, websites, the Hymedis system, SeaNet (online data exchange between six monitoring networks in the North Sea region).