Hymedis

Johan Raes, BET-SRK (B), Victor Cox, BET-SRK (Nl), Wim Smets, BET-SRK (B); Guido Dumon, AWZ – Coastal Waterways (B); Eric Taverniers, AWZ - Maritime Acces (B);
Mart de Goffau, RWS – Directorate Zeeland (Nl); Patrick Snelders, Inno.com (B); Joost Thurman, Inno.com (B)

What is Hymedis?

Hymedis - HYdro MEteo DIStribution - is a real-time wireless distribution system for HydroMeteo data.
It is and is a joint AWZ (Belgium) – RWS (Netherlands) project that became operational in September 2003 and is managed by the Management and Exploitation Team of the Scheldt Radar Chain (BET-SRK).

Hymedis delivers accurate and real-time hydrological and meteorological information as well as the predictions for the area Western Scheldt and Eastern Scheldt.
The users are pilots, service vessels (e.g. tugboats and lifeboats) and shore stations.

HydroMeteo information from the monitoring networks of AWZ in Flanders and RWS in the Netherlands is distributed to mobile devices (GSM, PDA, laptop) through mobile data communication technology as well as over the internet for the shore stations.

A central server is installed at the premises of the VTS instances (BET-SRK) in Flushing (Vlissingen). This server receives over leased lines the data from the Monitoring Networks of AWZ and RWS (80 locations) and distribute them in an efficient way through mobile data communication technology to mobile devices (GSM, PDA, laptop) as well as over the internet. An important requirement of the system is an availability of 99.5%.
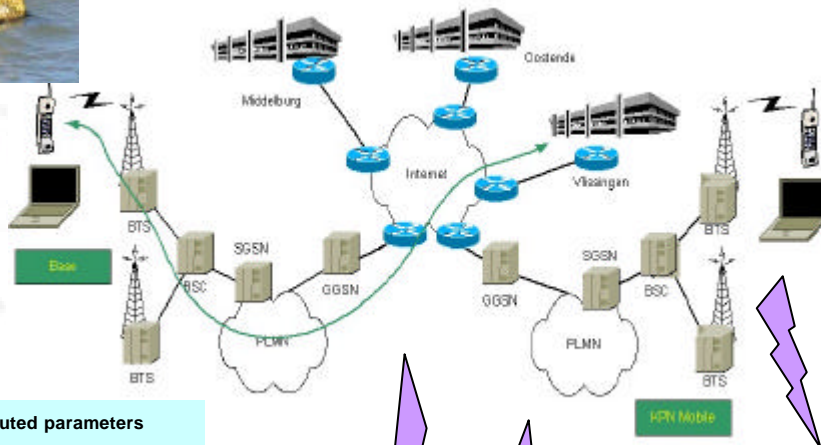
Distributed parameters

Wind speed & -direction
Water level
Wave height, period and direction
Swell
Current speed & -direction
Discharge
Chlorosity
Water Temperature
Visibilty
Forecasted high/low tide
Forecasted swell
Meteo forecast
Messages

Via mobile phones or PDA

The WAP application allows to consult Hymedis data by means of a mobile phone. The most important target groups for this application are pilots and other mobile users in the area, such as dredgers and service vessels.

The WAP browser works similar to a classical Internet browser: via Hyperlinks, the user surfs through the application and consults the measuring data he needs for a specific location.

Via the Internet

By logging in on the Hymedis website, authorised users can consult the distributed data through a simplified digital sea map. This chart is offered through a Java applet, downloaded from the Internet. By accessing the internet by GPRS, There is also an offline version of the map available for internet acces via GPRS, in order to minimise communication.

Via ECDIS eletronic seamap

The radar stations and service vessels can consult the Hymedis data on a notebook or desktop via an electronic sea map, based on the international ECDIS standard.

In the near future, also third parties, like dredging companies, yachting and inland navigation will get access to this application.