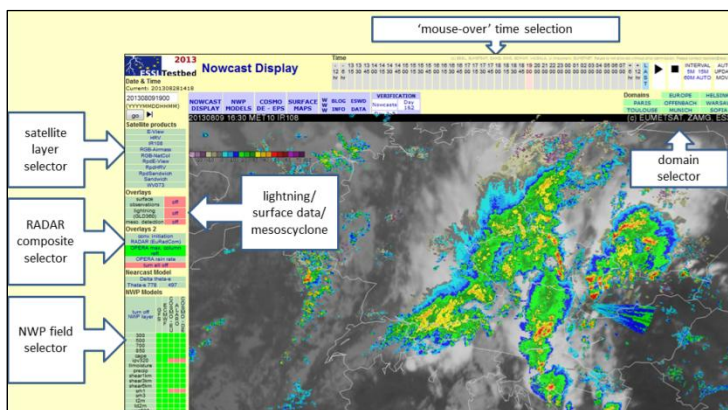# Report of the ESSL Testbed 2013

From 1 to 26 July 2013, the second edition of the ESSL Testbed took place at ESSL's Research and Training Centre in Wiener Neustadt, Austria.

Over 50 participants from 20 different countries, including both researchers and forecasters, worked closely together on putting new forecast supporting products and methods to the test.

This year, the following new products were evaluated: the Mesocyclone Detection Algorithm and the Convective Initiation product from DWD as well as the Nearcast Model of Ralph Peterson of the University of Wisconsin. New versions of the products NowcastMix, GLD360 and COSMO-DE-EPS were once more part of the Testbeds product evaluations.

Testbed participants discussing a severe weather event

Testbed "Nowcast Display"

The Testbed 2013 featured an upgraded workstation-like "Date Interface" for the participants to work with. It featured new possibilities to combine model satellite and radar data and to use it for severe convective storms forecasting using the ingredients-based method. For example, maps of low level moisture and mid tropospheric lapse rates could be used to track these two basic ingredients for deep moist convection which combine to form CAPE. After the Testbed, the "Data Interface" can be accessed at http://www.essl.org/testbed/data

Given the variety of backgrounds of the participants, an important goal of the Testbed was again to acquaint its participants with severe weather forecasting methods and techniques that work universally.

The cooperation with EUMETCAL made it possible to broadcast 19 "Expert Lectures" online to remote participants all over Europe, in the USA and even to Hongkong. The participating researchers and developers provided background information on their products and internationally renowned experts in forecasting presented their viewpoints on storm forecasting.

The 2013 Testbed was organized in close collaboration with the Austrian Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics (ZAMG) and supported by EUMETSAT, DWD, WMO Region VI, VAISALA, the state of Lower Austria and EUMETCAL.

The registration for the 2014 Testbed, to be organized from 2 – 27 June and 13 – 24 October 2014, will open soon at http://essl.org/testbed. Early rates will be available until 1 January 2014, and ESSL-members (or their employees) benefit from additional discounts.