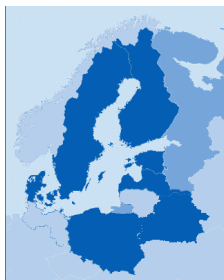


BALTRAD – an Advanced Weather Radar Network in the Baltic Sea Region

Anu Lahdensuu⁽¹⁾, Daniel Michelson⁽²⁾ and Markus Peura⁽¹⁾

*⁽¹⁾Finnish Meteorological Institute
PL 503, 00101 HELSINKI, Finland
Firstname.Lastname@fmi.fi*

⁽¹⁾Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute



baltrad



BALTRAD is a three-year EU project developing a real-time radar network for the Baltic Sea Region. The project partnership constitutes national weather services in Finland and Denmark, with both weather and hydrological services in Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, and Belarus.

BALTRAD delivers value-added precipitation information to improve short term weather forecast. It provides a durable and sustainable element of regional infrastructure, attracting local and regional authorities to use the forecast to improve their services. BALTRAD represents the first dedicated international weather radar networking project funded with European money (INTERREG IV B, the Baltic Sea Region). However, the technical concept has already been proven once before, with the establishment of the NORDRAD network around 20 years ago.

The goal is to achieve a network where data is exchanged on equal terms and where each institute hosts a processing node. One of the key concepts is that the nodes are technically similar processing frameworks, hence supporting easy interchange of product generators ie. implementations of meteorological radar algorithms. In addition, each processing node can be configured according to local needs. The new network will increase current coverage, time and space resolution as well as support for data quality information and dual-polarization data.

The BALTRAD project was launched on 1 February 2009, and it will continue until 31 January 2012. The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute is leading the project. The Finnish Meteorological Institute is responsible for the product generation framework as well as for project communication.