

SPOS

Weather Quality

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In 2005, the Meteo Group developed a unique forecast system for a major offshore client: **Shell**.

This system, called NMB, has been implemented in the forecasting operations for about 100 Shell platforms today and also other oil majors like ExxonMobil use these forecasts because of their proven reliability.

There are a few global forecasting models available today. The best of these models are:

- ECMWF of the joint European weather services is considered the best model available today;
- UKMO model of the UK Meteorological Office
- NCEP of the American National Weather Service, a part of NOAA.

Other maritime software makes use of one of these models.

Each model has its own qualities. At Meteo Consult we constantly weigh these three models together with the Ensemble forecasts of ECMWF and based on their forecasting skills, we calculate a new forecast. Unique is that the reliability of the forecast is directly taken into account. We call this new model our "Nautical MeteoBase" (NMB).

In continuous verifications it has been shown that the MeteoGroup NMB model outperforms the three models mentioned above by using three models as input, the reliability of the forecast has improved. Model output of the NMB is always assured, even if two of the three models could fail.

	NMB	ECMWF	UKMO	NCEP
Day 1-3	2.28	2.44	2.50	2.74

*Mean Absolute Error (MAE) for forecasted wind speeds in knots, for days 1-3 ahead,
2 month verification (September/October) for 9 locations*

Since 2006, the NMB data has been implemented in SPOS as well. Apart from pressure systems, wind and waves, other elements like visibility, risk of icing, weather (snow, rain, fog etc.) and temperatures are available. Besides the unique NMB data, SPOS forecasts also contain fronts, ice edges, ocean currents and tropical cyclones.

The NMB makes the SPOS forecast the best forecast available in the market.

