

**Hymedis – a real-time distribution system for Hydrometeo data**

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The pilots, the service vessels (e.g. tugboats and lifeboats) and the shore stations (radar centrals) play a crucial role in the process of guiding the ships in a safe way to and from the different harbours in the area. For that reason they need to have to their disposal accurate and real-time information concerning the hydrological (draught, surge, ...) and meteorological circumstances as well as the predictions for the area. To meet these requirements the Hymedis project was set up.

Hymedis is a real-time wireless distribution system for HydroMeteo data that became operational in September 2003. It is a joint AWZ (Waterways and Maritime Affairs Administration – Belgium) – RWS (Rijkswaterstaat – Netherlands) project and managed by the Management and Exploitation Team of the Scheldt Radar Chain (BET-SRK). Hymedis is delivering real-time measurements from the monitoring networks “Flemish Banks” of AWZ and “ZEGE & MSW” of RWS. These data, e.g. water levels, wave heights, wind speed and direction, are distributed through mobile data communication technology to mobile devices (GSM, PDA, laptop). The pilots are users of this distribution channel. On service vessels the same wireless information stream is imported in an ECDIS-application. For users on shore stations a web based application is available. The data for these clients are distributed over the internet using the HTTP protocol.