



Operational predictions of the potential flight distance for soaring in wind and thermals

O. Liechti

Analysen & Konzepte, CH-8404 Winterthur [OlivierLiechtiAuK@compuserve.com]

In recent years NWP based meteorological flight planning for soaring flight has been developed and made available operationally to glider pilots for their pre-flight weather briefing. Initially, the diurnal evolution of the flight altitude and the climb rates in thermals were predicted regionally for flights in the convective boundary layer. Recently, predictions of dynamic lift in complex terrain have been added to extend meteorological flight planning to windy conditions. GPS based flight documentation from soaring competitions is useful for the verification of operational meteorological predictions. NWP schemes are tuned with such data.