

The ESA Space Weather Applications Pilot Project

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Following the completion in 2001 of two parallel studies to consider the feasibility of a European Space Weather Programme, ESA embarked upon a space weather pilot study with the goal of prototyping European space weather services and assessing the overall market for such within Europe. This pilot project centred on a number of targeted service development activities supported by a common infrastructure and making use of only existing space weather assets. Each service activity included clear participation from at least one identified service user who was requested to provide initial requirements and regular feedback during the operational phase of the service. These service activities are now reaching the end of their 2-year development and testing phase and are now accessible, each with an element of the service in the public domain (see: <http://www.esa-spaceweather.net/swenet>). An additional crucial element of the study was the inclusion of a comprehensive and independent analysis of the benefits (both economic and strategic) of embarking on a programme which would include the deployment of an infrastructure with space-based elements. The results of this study will be reported together with their implication for future coordinated European activities in this field.