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Ground-based GPS near real-time zenith path delay estimation in the UK

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More than 70 permanent stations now compose the near real-time (NRT) continuous GPS network of the UK. The IESSG was mandated by the UK MetOffice to set up an operational system to provide hourly estimates of the zenith total delay, mainly aimed to be used in now-casting applications. The system has been in a testing mode since March 2004.

The UK network is presented along with the processing strategies implemented. The quality of the NRT solution is assessed by comparing it to both a rapid control solution (6 hour latency) and a final post-processed solution (latency of about 20 days) based on precise point positioning (PPP).