



The Asset database for assimilated fields

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Through the EU FP5 funded project on Assimilation of Envisat Data (ASSET), a database for collection and distribution of assimilated data fields has been set up at NILU. The fields are stored in HDF files, and indexed in a relational database. The system also includes a web-based service for uploads, downloads and file searches based on indexed metadata. Information is provided on-line and data are stored in a standardized format. Tools for reformatting of data are provided through the web portal: <http://nadir.nilu.no/asset>. The data are converted to and archived in the HDF4.1r3 format, and the metadata definitions from the ENVISAT Cal/Val activity are reused and expanded for ASSET. This was chosen to maintain the compatibility with the ENVISAT Cal/Val database and the possibility of cloning the existing technical solutions developed by NILU for that project. The same data formats are furthermore used for the EU funded POET and RETRO projects.

The system was set up during the first quarter of the project and has served as a repository and a common portal for file exchange for the partners throughout the three and a half year long effort. Access to the database has been regulated through personal user accounts and only project partners have been granted permission to the results. As the project finishes in June 2006 and all the final products have been uploaded to the data centre, the collection will be made publicly available. This will allow for a wider distribution and increased usage of the data sets.