



Predicting the Aurora for the public

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For thousands of years people in the North marveled at the space weather seen in the aurora. There have been hundreds of stories and theories to explain the amazing light shows in the sky. The Norwegian scientist - Kristian Birkeland (1867-1917) was the first to explain the source of the aurora and by his discovery a new field within science was born - the Sun-Earth connection. The aurora still fascinates everyone that get to see it and for some countries it has become a tourist attraction. Thus, forecasting the aurora should be of great interest for the tourist industry. A simple aurora prediction system has been developed tailored for the public. The project is a collaboration with universities and a commercial weather prediction centre. For the scientific community forecasting the aurora is nothing new, in particular for planning observations and sounding rocket launches. However, by adding prediction of weather and clear sky it will provide a useful tool for aurora hunters and tourists. Furthermore, awareness of the aurora and the Sun-Earth connection topic is also a main driver for this project.