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The EUROCHAMP Database of European Atmosphere Simulation Chambers

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The Environmental Chamber Studies Database is an initiative within the EUROCHAMP project (Integration of European Simulation Chambers for Investigating Atmospheric Processes) to provide a practical tool for facilitating the interchange and comparability of the kinetic and mechanistic information obtained in the different chamber experiments. This project is an integrated infrastructure initiative within the Sixth Framework Programme. The network group currently consists of 13 individual partner institutes operating in total over 25 simulation chambers used for investigations related to atmospheric transformation processes.

This database is based on a decentralised concept, i.e., a central search engine holds the key information of the data records required, enabling an intelligent search within the information After a successful search, the database provides access to a static standard html page that contains the links to the individual files on the server generated in a particular experiment. These original data sets are located and maintained at each of the participating institutes. The central search engine is hosted at the CEAM Foundation and it is accessible through the main webpage of the EUROCHAMP project: www.EUROCHAMP.org, at the link: Data Base, or directly through the following address:

http://80.24.165.149/www.EUROCHAMP/Data_Base.htm.

In order to minimise the investment costs required to finance database software packages and hardware facilities for the creation and installation of the database servers, open source software packages have been used. The use of open software ensures its

durability and robustness. In addition, the data introduced by the partners use a common ASCII format. The data format used -Eurochamp Data Format (edf)- is intended to be readable by all the users and easily processed by computer programs.

At the moment the Database contains more than three hundred and fifty records and it is expected that this number increases at least in one hundred records per year. In addition, it is expected to open the database for the introduction of data from other external institutions around the world. The use of the database, and therefore to the data contained in it, is open to the whole scientific community, free of charge. Registration is a requirement prior to its use.

The database is at present fully functional and under continuous development aimed at the incorporation of new elements. It aims at constituting an useful tool for instrument and chamber intercomparisons and for the development and testing of chemical models of atmospheric processes.