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Geoscientific Model Development: A new EGU Journal for descriptions of numerical models of the Earth System and its components

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Geoscientific Model Development (GMD), which launched in January 2008, is an international scientific journal dedicated to the publication and public discussion of the description, development and benchmarking of numerical models of the Earth System and its components. Manuscript types considered for peer-reviewed publication are: model descriptions, model inter-comparisons, benchmarking papers, and technical papers.

In encouraging full publication of Earth System Models we have two main goals. The primary goal is to promote the efficient and effective development of the models, through the clear presentation of the techniques from which all other developers can improve their own models. A secondary goal is to provide increased credibility to the Earth System Science field by creating a space within which models can be openly presented and critically discussed, and their results reproduced and validated. A welcome side-effect will be the formal, peer-reviewed, recognition of the work of Earth System Model developers.

It is anticipated that model description papers will form the backbone of GMD. These will comprehensively describe the underlying science behind the models, and will also include details often omitted from more traditional papers, such as the numeri-

cal schemes employed. The papers should be somewhat more advanced than internal technical reports. For example, the inclusion of discussion of the scope of applicability and limitations of the approach adopted is expected. In order to enable full peer review of the models, evidence of model output should also be provided, with comparison to standard benchmarks, observations and/or other model output included as appropriate. The publication will potentially consist of three parts: the main paper, a user manual, and the source code (ideally supported by some summary outputs from test case simulations).

The GMD website is: <http://www.geoscientific-model-development.net/>