

Research and development in meteorology: an optimal field for Public Private Partnership

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The scope of IWAIS lies perfectly in the field, where Public Private Partnership PPP can provide benefit for the society at its best. Atmospheric icing is on one hand a meteorological phenomenon, which needs high scientific skills to be understood. On the other hand it affects economy and security of our society very practically and considerably. Transport and power supply are at the same time public and private economic issues. Meteorology as a whole needs strong public commitment in research. The public interest in safety and the public duty of long term environment observation is an important issue in meteorological activity. The various requirements of the private economy on the other hand are best answered by flexible private meteorological service providers. The large field of applications of meteorological competence in agriculture, transport, housing, energy production can be best served by a close and good cooperation of private and public players.

In the past decades we often encountered frosty conditions in the communication and cooperation between public and private service providers in meteorology. Recent cooperation of public and private institutions in Switzerland shows, that research and development especially in atmospheric icing can lead to fruitful progress to the benefit of all.

The private consulting company METEOTEST and the Swiss Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss intensified their cooperation substantially in the past years. Within the framework of COST Action 727, the Swiss project “Alpine Test Site Gütsch” is run in close partnership. MeteoSwiss runs the meteorological test station which monitors the atmospheric conditions. METEOTEST is in charge of the monitoring and analysis of the icing effects on the nearby wind turbine. The agreement in this PPP cooperation was signed in November 2005. Since that time METEOTEST and MeteoSwiss intensified cooperation in even more projects.