

Guidelines for the Optional Programme: Boundary Conditions for Limited Area Modelling

Adopted by the Council at its 75th session (June 2011)

ECMWF/C/75(11)M Corr.2 para. 154

Amended by the Council at its 84th session (December 2014)

ECMWF/C/84(14)M Rev.1 para. 184

Amended by the Council at its 93rd session (December 2018)

ECMWF/C/93(18)M para.175

1. The Programme covers the provision of boundary data for use by participating Member States in support of their short-range regional forecasting activities.
2. Boundary value forecasts from the four main synoptic hours should be made.
3. All computational and manpower costs associated with the Programme shall be borne by the participating Member States. Any surplus from data sales in relation to the programme costs (excluding SBUs as they are contributed from Member State allowances) would be deducted from the following year's programme budget and any additional excess after that could be credited to participating Member and Co-operating States according to the programme scale of contributions.
4. The boundary value forecasts may be combined with Centre's core forecast runs, provided that any additional processing costs are charged to the Programme and that the Centre's core objectives are not compromised.
5. Full priority shall be given to the Centre's core activities. If problems arise affecting the core activities' suites or if long system sessions are needed, the boundary value forecasts will be suspended or abandoned.
6. The forecast data will be disseminated either as full fields or in the form of frames.
7. A rolling archive of the additional global fields produced by the boundary value forecasts will be kept to support performance monitoring, trouble-shooting and re-runs of recent cases.
8. The Centre shall report annually on the status and performance of the Programme to the TAC. The TAC shall monitor the Programme and report to the Council as appropriate.
9. The Programme will be governed by the full ECMWF Council.
10. These guidelines shall be reviewed at least every five years. Such reviews should be guided by the overall goal of preserving the synergistic relationship between the Centre and the Member States.

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