

With you for weather... the newsletter

N° 6—June 2008

MFI clinches two major contracts with India and Egypt, consolidating its unique strategic positioning

India: India Meteorological Department (IMD) launches the core project in its ambitious modernization program with strategic partner, Meteo France International (MFI)

On Monday, June 9th, 2008, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), represented by its Director General Mr. Tyagi, and Meteo France International, represented by its President Patrick Benichou, signed an outstanding two-year contract for the modernization of IMD's core meteorological systems and services to users.

This contract falls within the framework of IMD's overall Modernization Program.

On this occasion, Mr. Kapil Sibal, Indian Minister of State for Science and Technology, noted that this contract was the outcome of India's initiative to choose France as their strategic partner in meteorology and to benefit from Météo-France's expertise in the fields of forecasting, services to end-users and management of extreme weather events.



June 9th, 2008 in New Delhi Mr Tyagi Director General of IMDI (left) and Patrick Bénichou President of MFI (right) shake hands under applause of Mr Kapil Sibal Indian Minister of state of Science and Technologies



March 31st, 2008 in Cairo from left to right Mr Laurent Padou French Trade Commissioner, Mr Philippe Coste French Ambassador in Egypt, Mr Michel Pousse Vice President of MFI, Mrs Anne-Marie Idrac French Secretary of State for Foreign Trade, General Shaffik Minister of the Egyptian Civil Aviation, and Mr Magdy Abbas

Egypt: The Egyptian Meteorological Authority (EMA) will rely on METEO FRANCE INTERNATIONAL (MFI) for the development of advanced services in agro meteorology

On March 31st, 2008, MFI and the EMA signed a two-year contract for a comprehensive program to modernize meteorology in Egypt. The signing ceremony was attended by General Shaffik, Minister of Egyptian Civil Aviation, Mrs. Anne-Marie Idrac, French Secretary of State for Foreign Trade, and Mr. Philippe Coste, French Ambassador in Cairo.

The Egyptian Government has considered financial support from France. In 2007, EMA issued a call for tender requesting an integrated offer for all the infrastructure and systems needed for its modernization process. Meteo France International responded with a comprehensive proposal incorporating Météo-France's specific know-how and other French technologies, to ensure EMA state-of-the-art architecture and meteorological solutions.

MFI on track towards leadership!

Who could imagine that Meteo France International would sign two major contracts within 2-month time? As a matter of fact although such winning combination comes after continuous efforts and dialog with India Meteorological Department and Egyptian Meteorological Authority, it mainly confirms MFI's unique strategic positioning in the meteorological market.

In a global context made of uncertainties related to Climate change, increased awareness of impact of natural disasters, better understanding of socio economic impact of meteorological information, National Hydrological and Meteorological Services are now thinking of user oriented approach, strengthening of information systems, development of PWS and early warning capability. They are thinking globally... So do we!

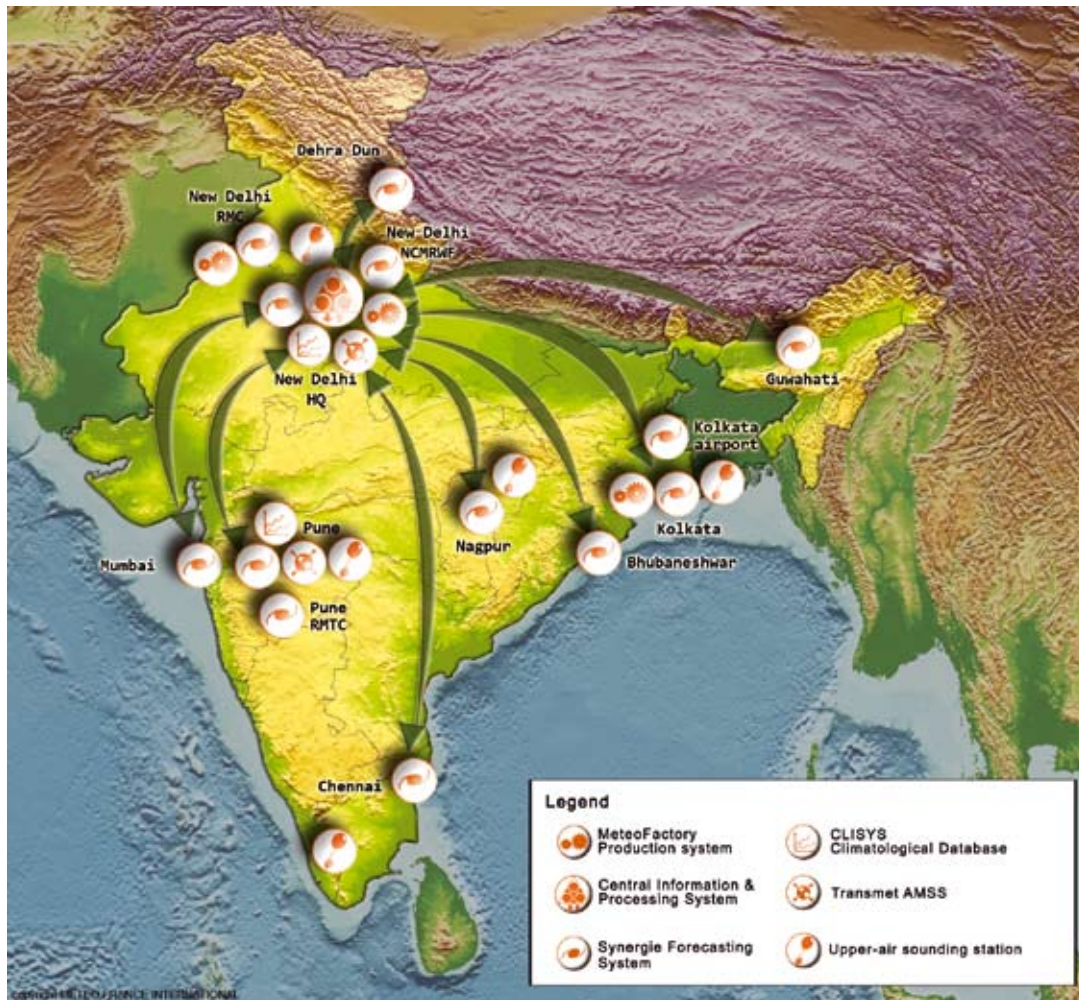
I am personally honoured that India and Egypt, in this context, naturally thought about MFI (and Météo-France of course) as their strategic partner to assist them in their ambitious modernization program. Each country has its own priorities and sensitivity to weather. But all now share the same objective: better serve the user community and prepare for uncertain future.

Let us be on their side, on the long run, and bring them innovative systems and integrated approach, as well as necessary consultancy and support.

With You for Weather...

Patrick Benichou – President

India: A long term partnership for building the core systems of a large-scale modernization program



Global geographic overview of the project

A central and critical part of the India Meteorological Department's vast modernization program, this project includes the supply and installation of state-of-the-art information systems in accordance with governmental guidelines.

Through this project, IMD aims to enhance its efficiency and visibility for end-users by improving warning systems and supplying high added-value forecasts to a wider community of users, while affirming its role at the international level.

To be implemented within a 24-month period, this contract represents the first phase in a long term partnership between IMD and MFI. Its focus will be upgrading the strategic information systems at the Delhi and Pune headquarters and the regional centers in Delhi and Kolkata.

State-of-the-art information systems

Within the scope of the project, Meteo France International will assist IMD in modernizing its core systems:

- Telecommunications (TRANSMET Automatic Message Switching System),
- Archiving and data processing system (CIPS Central Information and Processing System)
- Forecasting (SYNERGIE Expert's tool for forecasting & alerts),
- Climatology (CLISYS Climate Data Management System),
- Public Weather Services and Early Warning Systems (METEOFACORY® system).

An integrated project supported by cross-functional services from MFI

The key to the project's success will be the ongoing services that MFI will provide for IMD throughout the project's life span – such as consulting, transition support, integration, and general training.

Thousands of expert man-days will be dedicated to the project, mainly in the areas of capacity building, systems integration and change management, in order to ensure optimal transfer of knowledge and know-how from Météo-France to IMD.

Egypt: A global meteorological project to help EMA set up new service capability in the field of marine forecasting and agro meteorology

The aim of this project, called "NEMOS" (Network for Egyptian Meteorological Observations & Services), is to enhance EMA's agro and marine services for Egyptian professional, institutional and public end-users by strengthening the relevant observation network and information systems.

The modernization of EMA's observation and information infrastructure will involve the upgrading and networking existing automatic observation stations, the supply of additional synoptic and agro meteorological stations, and the collection of all synoptic observation data.

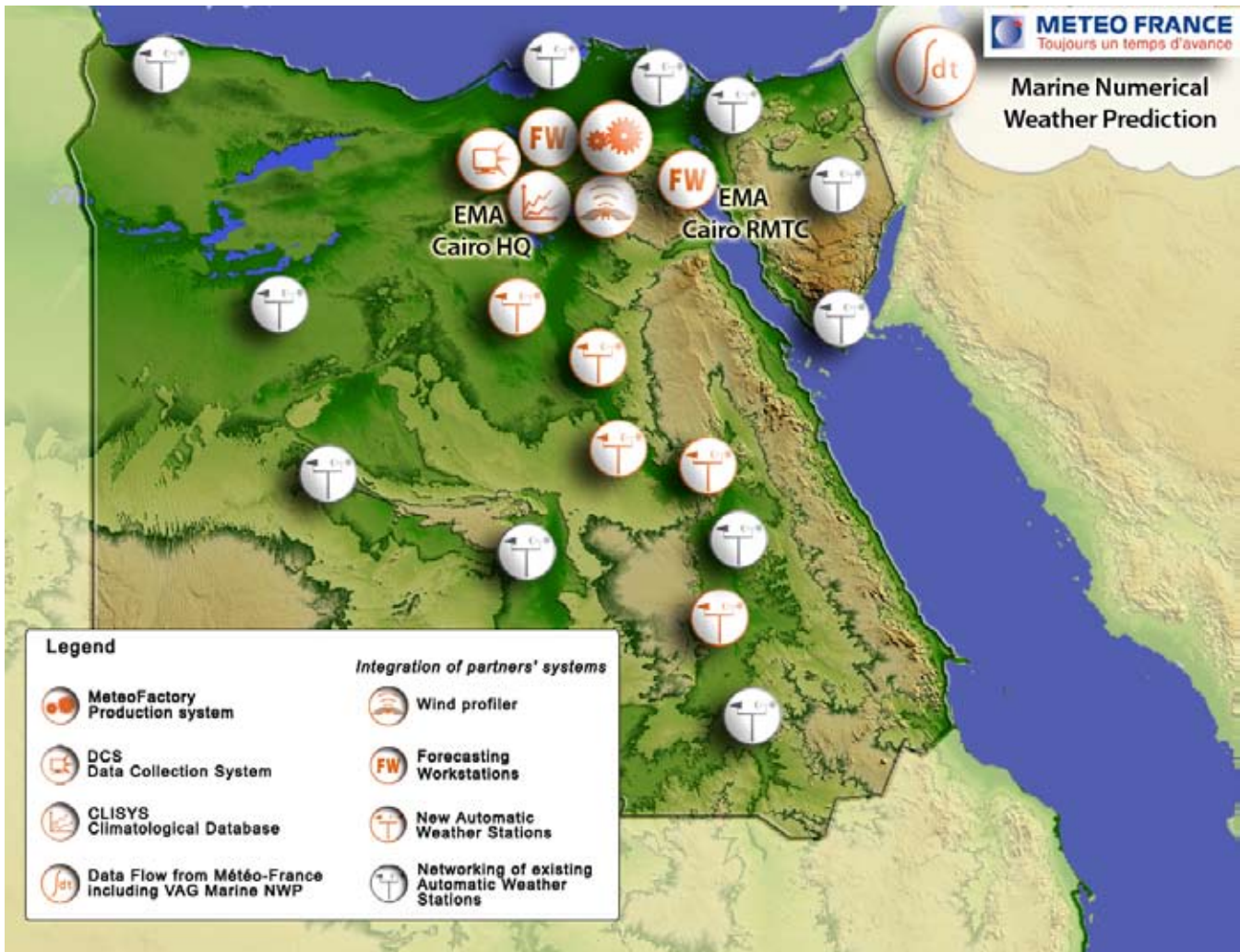
Other aspects of this far-reaching project will include upgrading the existing forecasting capacity for general forecasting, and setting up agro meteorology and marine forecasting workstations, the climate database and production system (CLISYS) and a dedicated Public Weather Services System through

METEOFACORY® and TV systems. Cairo Regional Meteorological Training Center will also be equipped with forecasting workstations.

MFI's role as integrator of observation networks and information systems

In addition, the project covers the necessary professional training courses on advanced meteorological subjects – from numerical weather modeling to agro and marine meteorology and applied climatology.

Above all, the key characteristic of this project is Meteo France International's unique role as integrator. This function will be pivotal in ensuring the Egyptian Meteorological Authority the successful integration of all individual systems – including systems and equipment from other dedicated French companies – into an efficient and comprehensive meteorological solution.



Global overview of the project

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Latest awards for Meteo France International

October 2007 - Uganda: Meteorological radar upgrade and repair

Meteo France International was awarded the international tender of Uganda for the supply of spare parts and repair of radar at Entebbe Meteorological Centre. MFI intervention helped securing the venue of major Commonwealth meeting in Entebbe from 23 to 25 November 2007.

December 2007 - Bulgaria chooses SYNERGIE to improve its forecast capability

The Bulgarian National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (NIMH) decided to improve its forecasting capabilities by acquiring the SYNERGIE forecasting system. The solution comprises one SYNERGIE server and two forecaster workstations.

February 2008 - Tunisia: SYNERGIE will soon equip the National Institute for Meteorology (INM)

After an international call for bids, INM selected SYNERGIE as their preferred decision making tool for critical weather events. The solution offered by MFI relies on the latest SYNERGIE user/server configuration featuring an Early Warning module.

May 2008 - Indonesia : BMG (Indonesian Met Service) entrusts MFI with the equipment of Balikpapan airport on Borneo Island

This new contract, the ninth since MFI's creation, attests BMG's faith in MFI and satisfaction with the reliability and performance of our systems, and the quality of our support since our partnership began.

This project consists in the implementation of two SYNERGIE systems and the new pilot briefing system AEROMETWEB co-developed with Météo-France.

March & May 2008: WMO successfully commissions CLISYS, SYNERGIE and METEFACTORY® in Toulouse

On June 4th, 2007, WMO and the UNPD (United Nations' Program for Development) had signed two new contracts with MFI on behalf of Libyan National Met Center (LNMC) for the supply of climate data management systems, forecasting capability upgrading, and the development of public weather services.

Technical acceptance tests took place at MFI premises in Toulouse in March and May 2008, attended by the heads of LNMC and senior experts from WMO and UNPD (See picture).

As of the end of April 2008, new SYNERGIE and CLISYS stations are operationally installed and validated in Libya. The automatic end-user production system METEFACTORY® will be installed and evaluated at LNMC in July 2008.



- 1 Abdesslem DJEHA, MFI, Technicien
- 2 Khalid I. ELFADLI, Libyan National Met Center, Directeur du département de climatologie et agrométéorologie
- 3 Jean-Marc BARRETY, Météo-France, Prévisionniste
- 4 Abdalah MOKSSET, DMN Maroc par délégation de l'OMM, Directeur Adjoint
- 5 Cédric BERGERON, MFI, Chef de produit CLISYS
- 6 Kuniyuki SHIDA, OMM, Responsable de programme, Département du développement et des activités régionales
- 7 Abdussalam E. BENALI, Libyan National Met Center, Directeur du département de la prévision et Supérieur du projet
- 8 Hassan HADDOUCH, DMN Maroc par délégation de l'OMM, Chef du service de prévision numérique et expert observation
- 9 Rachid SEBBARI, DMN Maroc par délégation de l'OMM, Chef du service de climatologie
- 10 Samuel W. MUCHEMI, OMM, Agent Scientifique, Département PWS (Public Weather Services)
- 11 Pascal VENZAC, MFI, Directeur des Développements
- 12 Fadel M.ZAYAN, PNUD Bureau de Tripoli, Chargé de programme
- 13 Claude BERTHOUD, MFI, Chef de Produit CIPS
- 14 Hervé GRIMAUD, MFI, Chef de Projet

Absents:
Abdourouf EL BELAZZI, Libyan NMC, Directeur du bureau de la coopération technique et de la formation
Hisham GANEDI, Libyan NMC, Directeur du département des affaires techniques
Joel MARTELLET, OMM, Agent scientifique, Département traitement des données