



Success story

European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts

Industry

- Science

Solutions

- OpenText™ Content Server
- OpenText™ Enterprise Connect
- OpenText™ Live Reports
- OpenText™ WebReports
- OpenText™ Extended ECM for Microsoft® Office 365™

Service

- OpenText Professional Services

Results



Enabled advanced search capabilities and content storage



Offered an audit trail for all deliverables, providing evidence required by mandate



Leveraged OpenText expertise to build an integrated solution with a timely turnaround



ECMWF advances global weather prediction with help from OpenText

International organization working on weather forecasting ensures scientific accuracy, collaboration for preparedness with OpenText Content Services solutions

"The success we have had with our OpenText colleagues is quite impressive."

Mithat Ersoy
Senior System Analyst
ECMWF

It's like having scientists on speed dial—scientists who reduce your exposure to weather-related disasters and support understanding of climate change.

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) supplies twice-daily numerical predictions to Member States and users across the globe. In all, ECMWF has 22 Member States, including France, Spain and the United Kingdom, as well as 12 additional Cooperating states, such as Israel and Hungary.

"We have more than 300 scientists in our organization," said Mithat Ersoy, senior system analyst for ECMWF. ***"The value we add to those Member and Cooperating states is to tackle the scientific challenges they cannot handle by themselves."***

ECMWF aims to generate accurate data, producing weather forecasts 15 days in advance and seasonal forecasts 12 months in the future. In 2012, ECMWF computer models predicted Hurricane Sandy's landfall seven days in advance, giving inhabitants along the Eastern seaboard of the United States an opportunity to prepare.

Founded in 1975, ECMWF also supports scientific research and maintains one of the largest supercomputer facilities and meteorological data archives in the world. In fact, a requirement to migrate microfiche data from the 1970s served as the organization's introduction to OpenText Enterprise Content Management solutions.

Upon conversion of its historical archives to PDF, the need for advanced search capabilities and integration with office systems led to a request for proposal and scoring of the top performing products against standards for ease of use. ***"Based on that score, OpenText beat the other product big time,"*** Ersoy recalled.

In 2006, ECMWF migrated hundreds of thousands of documents to the OpenText™ Content Suite Platform for easy search and retrieval functionality.

More than a decade later, ECMWF continues to rely on Content Suite as its official internal repository. Thus, when the forecasting organization was handling deliverables from external contractors, ECMWF managers leaned on its long-time framework.

Supporting Copernicus, the European Union's earth observation programme, ECMWF manages work from close to 80 contractors, each producing anywhere from 50 to 500 deliverables, from Microsoft® Word documents to complex data sets. Its research, atmospheric monitoring and a climate change program, observes the planet for the benefit of all European citizens. By mandate, all Copernicus deliverables must be auditable, displaying evidence of scientific rigor and proper management.

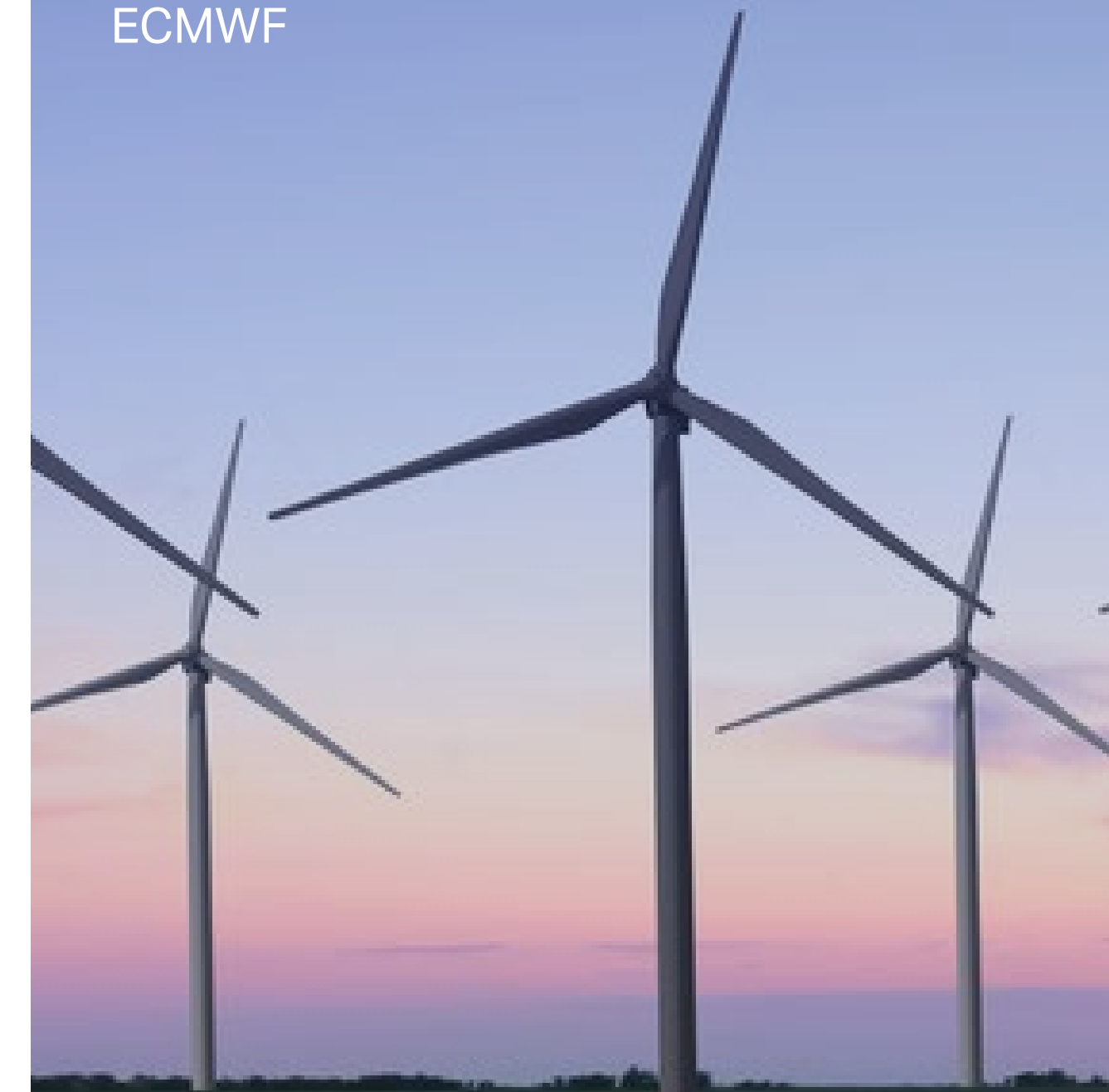
The top-performing content structure centers on Content Suite, where files are stored in one location and shared according to strict allowances, with permissions transparent to users. Contractors outside of ECMWF upload deliverables to Content Suite, which enables secure file sync and sharing of content stored on-premises. Ersoy and his team plan to utilize OpenText™ Core for advanced sharing and collaborating in the cloud, supporting their needs for many years to come.

The upload automatically triggers a workflow unseen by contributors; an email with all captured metadata is delivered to the ECMWF contract team. Upon review, scientific files are then assigned to one of more than 40 scientists for review. Rejected files, usually in need of updates to meet strict formatting and style guidelines, are returned for correction and resubmission.

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When the document is deemed complete and approved, the system automatically generates a status report that is emailed to external contractors.

“The complexity is completely hidden from the users,” Ersoy noted. ***“There are lots of scripts, OpenText™ Live Reports, OpenText™ WebReports and various things behind the scenes; but, from the user point of view, they [only] have a button to click.”***

Simplicity and intuitive design encourage steady use across the organization, even as users change every year. Since ECMWF implemented OpenText™ Enterprise Connect, the Content Suite module that provides desktop integration with Office productivity applications, users easily publish material directly from within the Microsoft applications to the repository, even without training, according to Ersoy. As a result, ECMWF reduces management, as well as dedicated training resources. ***“If a solution is easy to use, then you don’t need to spend money for all those things,”*** Ersoy said. ***“To me, that’s the best value ... because of how easy it will make our lives to achieve what we want to achieve.”***

In addition, through the integration of Content Suite with Microsoft® Office 365, ECMWF is extending immediate document accessibility to managers working away from the office on tablets. As integrated

tools supported by experienced professionals, OpenText solutions ***“tick all the boxes”*** for efficient content creation, collaboration and management, according to Ersoy. By allowing users to work from a single interface, they do not waste time jumping from system to system. Instead, they rely on established permissions and automatic workflows designed for optimum efficiency.

“The success we have had with our OpenText colleagues is quite impressive,” Ersoy noted, describing interaction with the OpenText account manager and customer support team, as well as OpenText Professional Services. ECMWF engaged Professional Services for the roll-out of tools and features tied to Copernicus. He reported a six-month turnaround from the team to deliver all listed requirements.

For ongoing refinement and growth, Ersoy has come to rely on OpenText professionals for expertise in a timely manner. ***“I get a very quick response and they find a solution ... I have seen a problem being fixed within an hour and I’ve seen a problem being fixed within a week. It all depends on how complex the issue is. The success we have had with our OpenText colleagues is quite impressive.”***



About OpenText

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