18–22 September 2017, Pula, Croatia ECSS2017-43 © Author(s) 2017. CC Attribution 3.0 License.



Fog nowcasting system for Irkutsk airport

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Nowcasting systems are to be installed at airports with high traffic and/or many cases of high impact weather events. Irkutsk airport operations are significantly impacted by low visibility caused by fog. Nowcasting system MeteoExpert has been put into operation at Irkutsk airport since August 2014 to provide Aviation Meteorological Center with nowcasts 24/7. Designed for operational use, numerical model of atmospheric boundary layer runs with a 10-min update cycle, data input from aviation weather observation station (AWOS) and 3 additional automatic weather stations (AWS) at fogging sites in the vicinity of the airdrome. Further, the stations were completed with pyranometers and soil temperature sensors. The system provides aviation forecasters with 0-6 hour forecasts of the weather conditions including fog, cloud ceiling and low visibility. Results of verification are presented in terms of different verification measures.