

A new forecast presentation tool for offshore contractors

M. Jørgensen

Danish Meteorological Institute, Forecasting Services, Copenhagen, Denmark (mij@dmi.dk)

Contractors working off shore are often very sensitive to both sea and weather conditions, and it's essential that they have easy access to reliable information on coming conditions to enable planning of when to start or shut down offshore operations to avoid loss of life and materials.

Danish Meteorological Institute, DMI, recently, in cooperation with business partners in the field, developed a new application to accommodate that need. The "Marine Forecast Service" is a browser based forecast presentation tool. It provides an interface for the user to enable easy and quick access to all relevant meteorological and oceanographic forecasts and observations for a given area of interest.

Each customer gains access to the application via a standard login/password procedure. Once logged in, the user can inspect animated forecast maps of parameters like wind, gust, wave height, swell and current among others. Supplementing the general maps, the user can choose to look at forecast graphs for each of the locations where the user is running operations. These forecast graphs can also be overlaid with the user's own in situ observations, if such exist. Furthermore, the data from the graphs can be exported as data files that the customer can use in his own applications as he desires.

As part of the application, a forecaster's view on the current and near future weather situation is presented to the user as well, adding further value to the information presented through maps and graphs.

Among other features of the product, animated radar and satellite images could be mentioned.

And finally the application provides the possibility of a "second opinion" through traditional weather charts from another recognized provider of weather forecasts.

The presentation will provide more detailed insights into the contents of the applications as well as some of the experiences with the product.