



End-user focused verification of precipitation nowcast systems during the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics

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The complexity of the mountainous terrain and the winter environment with strong contrasts in the Sochi region made weather forecasting a huge challenge during the XXII Winter Olympic and XI Paralympic Games. New nowcasting methods were among the innovations being presented to the local operational forecaster team within the FROST-2014 (Forecast and Research in the Olympic Sochi Testbed) framework as part of the meteorological support of the Olympics. Altogether five model-based and radar tracking short-range numerical weather prediction and nowcasting systems were delivered to the project by three participating countries of FROST-2014, Austria, Canada and Russia. The presentation will give an overview of the precipitation nowcasting evaluations based on point-wise verification at surface weather stations located close to the sports sites. Both objective verification statistics and subjective forecaster assessments showcase clear usefulness and skill of the nowcasts during the Olympics.