



## **NOSWE - The Norwegian Centre for Space Weather**

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The Norwegian Centre for Space Weather is a unit established at UiT – the Arctic University of Norway, in Tromsø - a junction point for a variety of industries affected by space weather including the oil industry and auroral tourism. NOSWE's purpose is to serve as the national risk owner in space weather, and as the contact point for government directorates and industries in issues concerning space weather.

The most important objectives of NOSWE concern national user needs. While the potential harmful impacts of space weather on different societal sectors are well documented, the interconnectedness of these sectors is often an issue left in the background of the direct concrete effects. While assessing all the links in this chain is too large a task, our focus is on a key component in the very beginning of the chain; the electric grid network that so much of our society is dependent on. The service build-up has thus been started by active collaboration with the national power grid operator in Norway through defining an action protocol and launching research into the connection between GICs and local geomagnetic indices.

While perhaps not critical for society, another important user group for NOSWE is the auroral tourism sector. Analysis of NOSWE's website visitor statistics have shown that the majority of our users are viewing products related to northern lights – also a fast growing tourism business in Northern Norway. Therefore, an important goal for us is to build up our website to serve better this group of users by providing more detailed and easily approachable information on northern lights, both the science and history, and providing further assistance in interpreting the space weather products on our website in terms of seeing the aurora.

One of the key visions in developing NOSWE is that while a wealth of space weather information is readily available online via a variety of portals and websites, our goal is to serve as a national team helping to interpret and filter this information, forming a so-called 'scientist in the loop' service.