



VIIRS processing with the Nowcasting SAF Polar Platform System

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The NWCSAF Polar Platform System (PPS) software package provides algorithms and infrastructure for generating cloud and precipitation products on the base of observations by polar orbiting meteorological satellites. Originally PPS was designed to process AVHRR data only. Four basic products were provided:

- Cloudmask
- Cloudtype
- Cloud-Top height/temperature
- Precipitating clouds

Emphasis was set on applications serving the European community, with a special focus on high latitudes.

To follow the development of new polar spacecrafts, preparations for processing the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS, on TERRA and AQUA) and the Visible/InfraredImager Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) onboard the Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS, formerly known as NPOESS), and its precursor NPOESS Preparatory Project (NPP) have been performed.

Requests for retrievals of cloud microphysical parameters motivated activities here, too. Microphysical products, developed within the CMSAF have been adapted to, and harmonized with, the PPS package and will be part of the 2012 release. The NPP launch was successful in late October 2011.

In this presentation we will summarize the latest functionalities and give application examples. First validation results will give insight in the performance for this new exceptional instrument.