

Working meeting report

Name of the meeting: Neutron Monitors and NMDB

Author(s): Christian T. Steigies, Rolf Bütikofer

Introduction

A working meeting on Neutron Monitors (NMs) and NMDB (for Neutron Monitor Data Base) was held on Thursday from 15:00 to 16:30 in the room Mercator.

It was organized and chaired by Christian T. Steigies.

The number of participants was about 20 (10 NM representatives, 10 guests).

Objective of the meeting

The meeting was organized to discuss several issues concerning the operators of Neutron Monitor stations and the Neutron Monitor database.

Some discussion highlights

Earlier in the week the ESA space situational awareness Expert Service Center for space radiation had been presented in a Working meeting. The tools and webpages developed for the ESA make heavy use of NM data as provided by NMDB. However, neither NMDB nor the individual stations were mentioned in the presentation nor on the website, even though already at ESWW10 the stations were promised to be contacted by ESA about financial support or a letter of support. We are still waiting for this to happen and insist on the data source to be properly acknowledged on the ESA webpages.

The NMDB servers are being upgraded, along with this the NMDB website (www.nmdb.eu) will be recreated as a wiki which can be easier maintained and offers a few improvements over the currently used content management system (CMS).

We briefly discussed a (series of) NMDB publications, a new labelling of GLEs, and a 10 year anniversary meeting to be held in Athens next spring. It is planned to invite potential stakeholders to the next NMDB meeting. A few operating NM stations are not yet included in NMDB, we are trying to contact them. Some stations have not yet provided complete station information, we are trying to fill these gaps.

Maria Abunina, IZMIRAN, Moscow, presented the computation of GCR spectra based on NM data by the IZMIRAN group. The output of these calculations will soon be available in NMDB again.

Christos Sarlanis, ISNet Co, Athens, presented “Ground Level Enhancement Alert Systems: Where are we now and where can we go from here?”

Main conclusion of the meeting

We are expecting the support letter from ESA soonish since we already asked explicitly in June and it was already 60% finished in July.

We expect that users of NM data and NMDB properly acknowledge the stations and NMDB and respect the conditions for use of the data (in particular commercial use requires a license from several stations).

Currently the different conditions of the stations are difficult to properly adhere to, so we will try to harmonize them (drop the requirement of mailing papers, perhaps emailing a PDF is sufficient). As the funding of some stations directly depends on the number of papers citing their station, the letter from ESA could really help here.

Annexes