Operations Plan of the Day

Wednesday, 29 August 2007, 08:00 UTC

General Remarks:

Synoptic Situation

The COPS region is situated on the southern periphery of a broad long-wave trough over Scandinavia and ahead of a shortwave trough stretching from the southern North Sea to north-western Spain. Cyclogenesis is taking place over southern France. Ahead of that system, strong warm-air advection is expected.

Today, **Wednesday**, scattered precipitation from elevated convection is expected over the southern and perhaps central parts of the COPS area. Some lightning is possible later with that activity. In addition to convective precipitation, some stratiform rain is expected as well. During the afternoon, the rain should retreat southward, leaving the central and northern COPS region under overcast skies with some mid- and especially high-level clouds.

On **Thursday**, the extreme south of the COPS domain will see some more mostly stratiform rain, while it should remain dry elsewhere. Widespread mid- and high-level clouds are expected over the COPS region at least until late afternoon. In the late evening and overnight a weak frontal system is expected to approach from the northwest. An increase in low-level cloudiness is expected and a little rain may fall primarily after midnight.

In association with a second weak disturbance arriving from the northwest on **Friday**, widespread low clouds are expected and some light rain will fall from time to time.

Operations summary:

# Day X (Wednesday)	**SOP 8**
# Day X+1 (Thursday)	**no IOP**
# Day X+2 (Friday)	**no IOP**

Mission Plans:

Day X, Wednesday, August 29: SOP 8 (cloud microphysics)

Specifications of vertical soundings:

# EUCOS-MeteoSwiss:	05, 17 UTC (Payerne; launching time)
# EUCOS-DWD:	05, 17 UTC (Meiningen, M, S; launching time)
# Achern (R):	08, 11, 14, 17 UTC (RS92)
# Hornisgrinde (H):	08, 11, 14, 17 UTC (RS92)
# Deckenpfronn (S):	2 soundings: morning (one time of 05, 08* or 11 UTC) and afternoon (one time of 14, 17*, 20 UTC)
	*Operations Center recommendation

Lidar systems:

08 - 18 UTC **weather permitting**, ensuring lidar operation during first radiosonde ascent, **scan scenario ScaS3**

Radar Systems:

Poldirad: standard daytime measurements

UHOH X-band: 08 - 18 UTC

BAe mission:

Planned take-off time 8:45 UTC, duration of mission about 5 h. Overpasses of Supersites at three levels (-1ºC, -3ºC, -5ºC) above the melting layer (if rain exists) otherwise in mixed-phase clouds for studying microphysics retrievals based on remote sensing techniques. Backup options are observations of cirrus clouds or embedded deep convection in boxes A and B.

Day X+1, Thursday, August 30: no IOP

Day X+2, Friday, August 31: no IOP

Your COPS Operations Center Team

Volker Wulfmeyer
Science Director

Matthias Grzeschik
Operations Director

Christian Barthlott
Operations Supervisor

Pieter Groenemeijer and Christian Ehmann
Forecaster