

AirportWeather.com – Free service for General Aviation pilots

Dear members, we were invited to share the future of weather prediction with the EASA GA Community.

The problem with METAR and TAF

Ever found yourself flying into airports without their own METAR and TAF? It's a common challenge, as only 6% of airports world-wide provide METAR, and even fewer provide TAF. As you can imagine, these are mainly large commercial airports or military bases – not typically GA's bread and butter. To find out the weather, you usually have to rely on the METAR and TAF from the nearest airport – which may be far away – or call to the tower. Not exactly convenient for flight prep, right?

AirportWeather.com

This is something the Dutch company Meandair realised, so they launched their AirportWeather.com service - free for General Aviation pilots. AirportWeather.com provides weather reports (AW-METAR) and forecasts (AW-TAF) for every airport, which are updated every 10 minutes (in contrast to METARs which are updated every 30/60 minutes and TAFs which are updated every 6 hours). These are shown both in visually decoded format, as well as the classic "raw-textual" format. By providing comprehensive weather reports for every airport, AirportWeather.com ensures pilots have all the weather information they need for safe and informed flights.

Award

Last month, French leading aviation magazine *Aviation et Pilote* awarded AirportWeather.com their *App of the Year* award, praising its reliability and accuracy after a year's worth of extensive testing by integrating it into their flying routines. They even named AirportWeather.com *Revolutionary*.

Nowcasting Technology vs Numerical Weather Predictions

Traditional numerical weather predictions look ahead several weeks. This requires complex meteorological models running on supercomputers. These global predictions, mainly by national meteorological institutes, are published every 6 hours and are based on observations collected in the hours before that. This means these predictions are based on 6-to-12 hour old data. Most aviation apps repackage this weather data into their own app.

Meandair produces its weather reports based on their Nowcasting technology. This produces short term weather forecasts, for the coming 5 hours. Focussing on this short term horizon allows the use of much faster algorithms to produce weather forecasts. By adding in near-real-time observations directly from satellites and ground stations, Meandair ensures the latest data is always used to produce its weather forecasts. This brings down the data age to less than 7 minutes. Meandair developed this technology together with ESA (European Space Agency), KNMI (Royal Dutch Meteorological Institute) and NSO (Netherlands Space Office).

Meandair supplies its weather predictions to numerous integrators. Many pilots have already been exposed to Meandair's Nowcasting Technology, the best known in Europe being SkyDemon's VFR Flyable Conditions feature.

Accuracy?

By using the latest observations directly from satellites and ground stations, along with its unprecedented refresh rate, Meandair's Nowcasting Technology is seen as the most accurate available. Independent preliminary research shows the accuracy to match 98% of an on-site human

meteorologist. The difference being that this is now available anywhere, without the need for on-site equipment or people.

Free

And the best part? AirportWeather.com is a free service for General Aviation pilots! So next time you're out or prepping for a flight, give it a try!

Website: www.airportweather.com

Google Play / App Store: AirportWeather.com

We're keen to hear your stories and comments



	METAR	AW-METAR	TAF	AW-TAF
Issued every	30 minutes - 1 hour	10 minutes	6 hours	10 minutes
Available at every airport?	✗	✓	✗	✓
Continuously updated based on latest information?	✗	✓	✗	✓

