Request for Information (RFI)

EUMETNET Engagement with the Private Sector on Artificial Intelligence

September 2026, v1.0 – for publication

Authors: EUMETNET Task Team on Collaboration with the Private Sector (TT CPS), EUMETNET AI Strategic Expert Team (E-AI SET) and MS365 Co-Pilot

1. Purpose of this RFI

EUMETNET is seeking input from private-sector organisations through an open, non-binding market engagement exercise to inform future models of collaboration on Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly where AI intersects with the role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), the provision of authoritative weather and climate information, and the delivery of public-good outcomes.

For private-sector organisations, this is an opportunity to engage early with the coordinated European public meteorological community, understand where authoritative weather and climate information can strengthen AI-enabled services, and help shape collaboration models that are credible, trusted and aligned with public-service needs.

This Request for Information (RFI) is intended to:

- illustrate the opportunity space and the challenges faced by EUMETNET and its Members – European NMHSs; and
- invite views, insights and ideas from the private sector, rather than to prescribe solutions.

Please note: This RFI does **not** constitute a call for tenders, a procurement exercise, or a commitment to enter into any form of partnership. It is intended to explore ideas, test potential areas of mutual interest and gather evidence to support future decision-making by EUMETNET and its Members.

2. About EUMETNET and the Public-Good Context

EUMETNET is the European network of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). It provides a framework through which its members cooperate on shared meteorological activities, operational services and strategic challenges that are better addressed collectively than by individual NMHSs acting alone. Through this collaboration, EUMETNET helps strengthen national capability, improve interoperability across Europe, and support the delivery of trusted weather and climate services for society.

EUMETNET's Members are the official national organisations responsible for providing authoritative weather, climate and related environmental information in their respective countries. Their work supports public safety, severe-weather warning, emergency management, transport, energy, agriculture, water management and wider economic resilience.

EUMETNET does not replace the national role of individual NMHSs, nor does it commercialise outputs. It enables coordination where a collective European approach adds value, while respecting national mandates, public-good obligations, data governance requirements and the operational nature of safety-critical services. Any future collaboration with the private sector would therefore need to support the authoritative public-service role of NMHSs and maintain public confidence in trusted weather and climate information.

The work of EUMETNET and its Members is characterised by:

- sustained service delivery and accountability to the public;
- high levels of trust, transparency and international cooperation;
- operational and safety-critical weather and climate services; and
- strong expectations around national sovereignty and control.

For potential partners, engagement with EUMETNET offers a route to understand and support the needs of a coordinated European public meteorological community, including access to trusted expertise, authoritative data perspectives and a clear governance environment for exploring public-private collaboration.

3. Opportunity for Scalable AI-Enabled Infrastructure

Modern meteorology and hydrology are increasingly shaped by large-scale digital infrastructure, including high-performance compute, data platforms and storage. These capabilities are essential both for established numerical approaches and for emerging AI-enabled techniques to deliver high-value weather and climate services. The changes in technology open up opportunities for new forms of collaboration between public meteorological services and private-sector organisations with relevant infrastructure, platform and AI capabilities.

EUMETNET is interested in understanding how such collaboration could help its Members:

- make effective use of growing data volumes and increasingly complex modelling approaches;
- explore scalable approaches to AI-related compute, data management and service delivery;
- identify models that improve efficiency, resilience and long-term sustainability; and
- understand where private-sector capability could complement, rather than replace, national and collective public-service capability.

The opportunity is to identify practical engagement models that help sustain and evolve national and collective public-good capabilities while enabling responsible access to innovation, infrastructure and expertise at appropriate scale.

4. The AI-Specific Context

At the same time, innovation in AI – particularly in areas such as foundation models, generative AI and AI-optimised infrastructure – is being driven predominantly by the private sector.

This creates both opportunity and tension. NMHSs must balance:

- the potential benefits of rapid innovation;

- obligations around sovereignty, resilience and continuity;
- operational and reputational risk; and
- concerns around long-term dependency, competition and affordability.

EUMETNET wishes to explore how these opportunities and tensions might be managed constructively, rather than avoided, through appropriate forms of engagement.

5. Areas Where Input is Sought

EUMETNET has identified two initial areas for exploration with the private sector. These themes are intended to provide focus for the RFI while remaining open to additional ideas from respondents where they can demonstrate clear relevance to EUMETNET's public-service mission and Member priorities.

A. Ensuring authoritative NMHS weather and climate information within public LLMs

This theme is the most immediate priority for initial engagement. EUMETNET can see a time when many users will access weather and climate information through publicly available large language models, such as ChatGPT, Gemini and Claude, rather than by visiting specialist weather apps or websites. Users are also likely to interact in natural language and ask activity- or impact-based questions, such as whether Saturday, or Sunday, would be the better day to fly my drone, rather than simply asking for a weather forecast.

In this context, current approaches to extending the knowledge of LLMs, typically through retrieval-augmented generation, may not be sufficient to deliver the best possible answers. EUMETNET is therefore interested in understanding how public LLMs could provide more reliable, traceable and useful responses through direct integration with authoritative weather and climate data from the NMHS relevant to the user's location.

For providers of public search, assistant and LLM services, the opportunity is also clear: users need to be confident that weather and climate information surfaced through their services is accurate, current, traceable and appropriate to the location and decision context. EUMETNET Members are the authoritative national sources of high-quality weather and climate information, including warnings and safety-critical advice.

This is not a new form of collaboration: through MeteoAlarm, EUMETNET Members already provide a coordinated European framework for the dissemination of official, standardised warnings, with established relationships with major redistributors and public-facing platforms. In some countries, warnings issued by the NMHS are the only warnings that may be disseminated officially. Direct integration with authoritative national sources could therefore help search and LLM providers increase user trust, reduce the risk of misrepresentation, and strengthen the quality and credibility of weather-related responses.

Potential areas of exploration include:

- Validation, traceability and timeliness of authoritative sources used by LLMs
- Branding, attribution and safeguards against misrepresentation of official national information
- Mechanisms for surfacing authoritative content, including warnings, and maintaining clear attribution to national sources

- Approaches that help search and LLM providers strengthen user confidence in the quality and credibility of weather and climate information returned through their services
- Best practice for use of NMHS data for live user responses, training, evaluation and product improvement.

Respondents are invited to describe how their services would maintain the visibility, attribution and authority of official NMHS forecasts and warnings, including the preservation of official wording, severity levels, update status and source identification. Responses could also explain how authoritative NMHS information would be distinguished from AI-generated interpretation, advice or additional context, and how uncertainty and the limits of predictability could be communicated to users.

B. Verification and benchmarking of AI models

This theme is also strategically important, but may require further development in parallel with, or subsequent to, initial engagement on LLMs. Work on AI model verification and benchmarking is already developing across the scientific community and through international and European initiatives. EUMETNET is therefore interested in understanding where private-sector engagement could add value without duplicating existing activity or creating confusion over roles and responsibilities. The potential collaboration could include:

- Developing verification methods for AI-based meteorological and environmental models
- Establishing shared evaluation datasets and metrics
- Ensuring alignment with EUMETNET standards and public-service values
- Defining how benchmark results, methods and limitations may be communicated, so that results are not used selectively or presented as formal endorsement beyond what the exercise supports.

It would be useful for respondents to indicate how proposed verification or benchmarking activity could support public-service outcomes, including warnings, high-impact weather, uncertainty and operational decision-making. Responses could also cover how datasets, event definitions, thresholds, metrics, assumptions and limitations might be documented; where methods, code or evaluation processes could be made open or independently reviewable; and how NMHSs interests in data access, interpretation and permitted uses could be protected.

With these themes in mind, EUMETNET is inviting perspectives on topics such as:

- models of collaboration between public, intergovernmental organisations and the private sector that have worked at scale in other domains;
- approaches to accessing AI innovation without creating structural dependency or vendor lock-in;
- ways in which collaboration could reduce total system cost while respecting national control and public-good obligations;
- governance, commercial or technical patterns that help manage long-term pricing risk; and
- areas where collaboration may not be appropriate, and why;
- additional AI-related areas where respondents believe collaboration with EUMETNET and its Members could create mutual value, provided these are clearly aligned with public-service objectives.

These areas are illustrative rather than exhaustive, and respondents are encouraged to share insights they believe are relevant.

6. What is in it for a Private-Sector Partner?

Engagement with EUMETNET through this RFI offers private-sector organisations an opportunity to explore how their capabilities could connect with a trusted, authoritative and coordinated European public meteorological community.

In particular, participation provides an opportunity to:

- gain insight into the long-term needs, constraints and operating context of European NMHSs, including emerging challenges around AI, infrastructure affordability and governance;
- influence early thinking on collaboration models, governance approaches and engagement principles before positions and structures become fixed;
- explore how private-sector innovation, capabilities and commercial models might align with public-good objectives at national and pan-European scale;
- help identify engagement patterns that balance innovation, resilience, sovereignty and affordability in safety-critical operational environments;
- strengthen the quality, credibility and trustworthiness of AI-enabled weather and climate services by drawing on authoritative national data, expertise and operational understanding; and
- test ideas in dialogue with a well-established intergovernmental partnership, rather than through bilateral or transactional arrangements.

7. Terms of use of this RFI document

This RFI is provided solely for the purpose of gathering views, insights and evidence from interested organisations to inform EUMETNET's early thinking on possible future engagement with the private sector on AI. It is not a call for tenders, a procurement exercise or an invitation to submit formal proposals.

The document describes areas of interest and questions for exploration, but does not set out final requirements, specifications or preferred collaboration models. Any themes, examples or potential approaches described should be treated as illustrative and subject to further discussion, technical review and governance approval.

The information in this document is preliminary and may be amended, expanded or withdrawn. No decision has been made by EUMETNET or its Members to proceed with any partnership, procurement or other form of engagement arising from this RFI.

Respondents should not rely on this document as a statement of future requirements or commitments. While it has been prepared in good faith, EUMETNET, its Member NMHSs and any supporting organisations accept no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of the information provided for the purposes of this exploratory exercise, nor for any costs, losses or expenses incurred by a respondent in preparing or submitting a response, attending the clarification seminar, or otherwise participating in this RFI process or any follow-up engagement.

Participation in this RFI is voluntary and at each respondent's own cost. Responses will be used to inform internal consideration by EUMETNET and its Members and will not, in themselves, confer any advantage or create any entitlement to participate in future activity.

Participation will not create preferential access to EUMETNET data, expertise, pilots or any future opportunity. Where clarification questions or responses raise issues relevant to all potential respondents, EUMETNET may publish or share them more widely to support consistency and equal treatment.

Any future engagement arising from this RFI would need to be consistent with EUMETNET's public-service role and subject to appropriate technical, legal, ethical, competition, data governance and EUMETNET governance review. In particular, EUMETNET expects potential models of engagement to demonstrate clear public-good value and respect NMHS mandates.

Any future engagement would need to take account of known constraints and concerns, including:

- national sovereignty and control of critical capabilities;
- competition and market fairness;
- long-term affordability and price escalation;
- trust, transparency and resilience; and
- the operational and safety-critical nature of services delivered by EUMETNET Members.

EUMETNET reserves the right to amend this RFI, seek further clarification from respondents, undertake further market engagement, or decide not to proceed with any further activity.

Nothing in this RFI, in any response submitted, in the clarification seminar, or in any follow-up engagement constitutes an offer capable of acceptance, and no contract, partnership, exclusivity or other legal relationship will arise between EUMETNET (or any Member) and any respondent by virtue of participation in this RFI process. EUMETNET is under no obligation to proceed to any further stage of engagement, to enter into any agreement, or to give reasons for any decision not to do so.

8. Intellectual Property, Confidentiality and Non-Exclusivity

Intellectual property

Respondents retain all intellectual property rights and ownership of the ideas, information and materials they submit in response to this RFI. By submitting a response, a respondent permits EUMETNET to use, reproduce and internally share the content of that response (including with Members, relevant expert groups, and EUMETNET governance bodies) for the purposes of considering and evaluating this RFI. This does not grant EUMETNET any licence to exploit, or any ownership of, a respondent's underlying technology, products or intellectual property, and EUMETNET will not use responses for any commercial purpose. No fee, royalty or other compensation is payable by EUMETNET for any idea, information or material submitted.

Any arrangements concerning the ownership, licensing or use of intellectual property arising from future collaboration (including any jointly developed IP) would be a matter for negotiation as part of that future engagement and are not addressed by this RFI.

Non-exclusivity

Participation in this RFI does not restrict EUMETNET's or any Member's ability to engage with, discuss similar or related matters with, or enter into arrangements with any other organisation, whether or not that organisation has responded to this RFI. Respondents likewise remain free to engage with other public- or private-sector organisations on the same or related topics, and nothing in this RFI creates any exclusivity in either direction.

Confidentiality of responses

EUMETNET recognises that respondents may wish to protect commercially sensitive information. Respondents may choose to submit their response in two parts: a non-confidential part, which may be circulated to EUMETNET's Secretariat, relevant expert groups, governance bodies and Members for the purposes of this RFI, and a separate confidential annex, clearly marked as such, which will be seen only by the EUMETNET Secretariat, relevant internal expert groups and governance bodies, and will not be circulated further to Members without the respondent's consent. This is expected to be sufficient to protect a respondent's sensitive information at this exploratory stage. Where a respondent considers that this mechanism does not adequately address its needs, it may raise this with EUMETNET, which may, at its discretion, make available a standard-form non-disclosure agreement on a consistent basis for respondents in that position. Use of the confidential-annex mechanism is entirely optional and at the respondent's discretion. EUMETNET will not otherwise publish or disclose an individual respondent's submission externally without that respondent's consent.

Respondents should not include in the non-confidential part of their response any information they are not comfortable being seen by EUMETNET's Members, or being referenced (without attribution to any individual organisation) in any thematic summary EUMETNET may prepare based on responses received and may share with its Members.

9. Protection of personal data

EUMETNET will collect, use, store, share and otherwise process personal data that is provided to it in the context of this RFI. More information on how EUMETNET handles personal data can be found on the Privacy Notice published on EUMETNET's website. You may contact info@eumetnet.eu in case of any questions in this respect.

10. What Happens Next

The timetable below sets out the planned stages for this RFI process. This timetable is indicative and may be amended if required. Any changes will be communicated through the same channels used to publish the RFI.

DATE	ACTIVITY
07 September 2026	Publication of the RFI and opening of the response period.
w/c 28 September 2026	Clarification seminar for interested organisations.
16 October 2026	Deadline for submission of an RFI Response – 4.30pm Responses will be submitted through a short MS Forms Questionnaire; questions are listed in Annex A to this document.
Late October/November	Possible follow-up engagement with respondents, which may include targeted discussions or broader information sessions.
18 December	Deadline for EUMETNET to provide feedback to respondents.

A clarification seminar will be held during the response period to provide an opportunity for interested organisations to ask questions about the purpose of the RFI, the areas where input is sought, and the response process. To ensure fair treatment and transparency, all potential respondents will have access to the same information. EUMETNET reserves the right to share any of the information *we provide* during the seminar, as well as any resulting summaries or conclusions.

The clarification seminar, and any other EUMETNET-hosted forum under this RFI, is intended solely for dialogue between EUMETNET and respondents. Respondents should not use the seminar or any other EUMETNET-hosted forum to discuss pricing, market allocation, or other competitively sensitive matters with each other.

Following the submission deadline, responses will be reviewed by EUMETNET, including relevant expert groups and governance bodies, to identify key themes, areas of potential mutual interest, and any issues requiring further consideration. Depending on the volume and nature of responses received, EUMETNET may undertake follow-up engagement with some or all respondents. This could include targeted discussions or broader information sessions.

Annex A: RFI Questionnaire (to be completed on MS Forms)

1. Please briefly describe your organisation and the AI-related activities most relevant to this RFI.

2. Which part of the RFI is most relevant to your organisation?
    a. Public LLMs / AI assistants
    b. Verification or benchmarking
    c. Other

3. Where do you see the strongest potential for useful cooperation with EUMETNET and European NMHSs?

4. What would make cooperation practical, worthwhile and fair from your organisation's perspective?

5. What constraints, concerns or challenges should EUMETNET take account of?

6. What would be a useful first step in exploring collaboration?

7. Is there anything else you would like EUMETNET to understand when considering future cooperation with the private sector on AI?