



Our ref.: WMOI-559158197-6423537/NET

24 July 2025

Subject: Plan to replace the OSCAR/Surface tool

Action required: (1) To take notice of the plan to replace the OSCAR/Surface tool with (a) new solution(s)

(2) To consider in-kind and cash contributions to the development of (a) new solution(s)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing about the Observing Systems Capability Analysis and Review (OSCAR) tool. [OSCAR/Surface](#) is the official repository¹ of metadata on surface-based meteorological and climatological observations that are required for international exchange and integrated under the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS). It is one component of a suite of resources that also keep track of space-based missions ([OSCAR/Space](#)) to understand gaps against requirements and WIGOS user requirements from the Rolling Review of Requirements process ([OSCAR/Requirements](#)), and that allow WMO to track the quality and compliance of observations against its Technical Regulations and guidance material ([WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System](#) and [Global Basic Observing Network compliance](#) tools).

MeteoSwiss has operated OSCAR/Surface since its inception, for more than a decade, under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Permanent Representative of Switzerland and the Secretary-General of WMO, which was recently renewed and now expires on 30 March 2027.

Change notification

As the current OSCAR/Surface is now reaching end-of-life because of the update expiration of the software components used, a renewal project has been initiated to replace it with (a) new solution(s).

¹ Relevant provisions of the *Manual on the WMO Integrated Global Observing System* (WMO-No. 1160):
2.5.1.1 – For all WIGOS observations they make available internationally, Members shall record and retain the observational metadata specified as mandatory in Appendix 2.4 and in the *WIGOS Metadata Standard* (WMO-No. 1192).

2.5.3.1 – Members shall make available to WMO for global compilation those components of the WIGOS metadata that are specified as mandatory or conditional (whenever the condition is met).

3.2.2.23 – Members shall register the stations in OSCAR/Surface and identify that these stations belong to GBON.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers
National Focal Points for WIGOS
OSCAR/Surface and WDQMS
Focal Points for designated WIPPS Centres
National Focal Point on WIS matters
Regional WIGOS Centre Focal Points

To support this project, an ad-hoc task team has been established by the president of the Infrastructure Commission (INFCOM), consisting of experts nominated by the Standing Committee on Information Management and Technology (SC-IMT) and the Standing Committee on Earth System Observing Systems and Monitoring Networks (SC-ON) of INFCOM, and the Secretariat staff. The team will examine use cases of OSCAR/Surface, prioritize users, examine the potential operational models and decide on the solution(s), as well as decide on updates of the WIGOS Metadata Standard as necessary.

The task team is expected to conclude the study by the end of 2025, after which the outcome and plan for transition from the current system to the new solution(s) will be communicated to Members. Please be advised that the Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and interfaces of the present OSCAR/Surface could change in the new solution(s).

Survey on your national use of OSCAR/Surface

I would like to inform you that, as part of the efforts by the task team to analyse and prioritize use cases, a survey has been sent out to your nominated National Focal Points for OSCAR/Surface and WIGOS to understand how Members are using the OSCAR/Surface tool. I emphasize the importance and urgency of hearing the feedback from all Members; therefore, your nominated Focal Points are strongly encouraged to respond to the survey.

Support requested

I would also like to invite you to consider providing in-kind development resources and/or cash contributions to the development of new solutions through the WIGOS Trust Fund.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your support to WMO activities.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ko Barrett', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ms Ko Barrett
for the Secretary-General