OPEN CONSULTATIVE PLATFORM (OCP) · TECO 2026 · 7 October 2026

OCP Amsterdam: Insights & Next Steps

National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), companies and other stakeholders met in Amsterdam on 7 October 2026 to explore practical models for public-private collaboration. Discussions across five World Café tables focused on data as a service, infrastructure as a service and the emerging commercial satellite sector.

~40 participants | **3** themes | **5** World Café tables

ABOUT THE OCP

WMO's primary mechanism for structured dialogue between Members and the wider weather, climate and water community, including the private sector, academia and philanthropy.

WHERE WE ARE

WMO is revamping its approach to public-private engagement. The seventh High-Level OCP session (22 June 2026) called for a stronger focus on practical collaboration, and served to launch consultations with technical commissions, regional associations and other WMO bodies.

WHY AMSTERDAM

Amsterdam brought operational observational experience into this process, examining collaboration models for data, infrastructure and commercial satellite observations. The findings will help inform recommendations for Members' consideration at the twentieth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-20).

Theme by theme

Data as a service

WHAT WORKS

Participants described three forms of data sharing already in practice: industry providing data to NMHSs, NMHSs providing data to industry, and NMHSs sharing data they had bought and enriched. Other models discussed were free infrastructure in exchange for data access and bundled offers combining data with applications. Clear contractual responsibilities were identified as a feature of successful arrangements.

CONCERNS

Concerns raised included unclear data ownership and rights, mentioned in several groups, and data sovereignty in cross-border arrangements. Participants also noted funding that favours infrastructure over data, agreements built for buying hardware rather than data services, service continuity if a provider ceases operations, the need for national services to repeat data validation, and procurement barriers faced by smaller national services.

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

Participants called for WMO guidance on data validation, adaptable contract and context-neutral licensing templates, shared principles to inform national approaches, and training. They emphasized the strategic value of data and the need for arrangements that benefit both providers and users. One proposal was to make data openly accessible while sharing its costs among users.

Infrastructure as a service

WHAT WORKS

Participants brought specific examples: lightning detection and radar as a service, with clearly defined responsibilities for providers and national services. Models discussed were privately owned, publicly owned and hybrid.

CONCERNS

Participants noted that the benefits of public infrastructure investment cannot be sustained without adequate maintenance, and that limited capacity to maintain it leaves infrastructure unused. They also noted that business models need to adapt to changes in public funding, that risk needs to be shared at several levels, and that no one model fits all.

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

Participants highlighted the regulatory role of governments and suggested that WMO could support independent infrastructure audits. They emphasized the need to safeguard public safety while ensuring commercial viability, and to support Members with more limited technical and financial capacity. Community ownership was also identified as an option to explore.

Approved by: Celeste Saulo, 23 November 2026 17:57 UTC+1, Doc ID: WMOD-1457336098-6797214

Theme by theme (cont'd)

Satellites and commercial space sector

WHAT WORKS

Participants discussed tiered service offerings, dual licensing (free for academic use, paid for commercial use) and multi-year contracts as ways to support providers' long-term financial viability. It was noted that satellite operators have an interest in funding impact studies (OSSEs) to assess the potential value of new observing capabilities.

CONCERNS

Participants noted that there is no standard approach to licensing, and that redistribution rights can cost many times more than use within a single national service. Concerns included continuity if a commercial source is lost, uncertainty over public and private roles that can discourage investment, and impact studies that are costly and slow.

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

Participants asked for WMO guidance on licensing satellite data and for best practice in designing impact studies, which test the value of new observing capabilities. They noted that being able to trace products derived from satellite data, including AI-based ones, back to their source is important but not trivial.

How Amsterdam builds on OCP-HL-7

OCP-HL-7 RAISED	AMSTERDAM ADDED
Infrastructure as a service and co-production approaches were seen as promising mechanisms.	Participants shared operational examples, while noting that limited capacity to maintain infrastructure leaves it unused and that business models evolve with government budgets.
Concrete pilots were described as the most credible way to build trust between sectors.	Participants added that examples that worked had clear contractual responsibilities, with payment linked to the agreed quality requirements.
Members were noted to differ widely in their capacity to engage the private sector.	Participants described procurement bottlenecks and repeated validation as placing a disproportionate burden on smaller national services with limited staff, and pointed to model contracts and procurement guidance.

Approved by: Celeste Saulo, 23 November 2026 17:57 UTC+1, Doc ID: WMOD-1457336098-6797214

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

Common findings across the themes

Clear roles and rules enable partnerships

Across the discussions, clearly defined responsibilities emerged as a foundation for effective collaboration. Participants linked clarity over public and private roles to both reliable service delivery and greater confidence in investment decisions.

WMO's role in supporting shared approaches

In all three discussions, participants looked to WMO for common practice: a validation approach, model contracts, licensing best practice, shared impact studies and independent audit.

Continuity and sustainability

Participants raised continuity if a provider disappears or a commercial source is lost, and noted that public investment in infrastructure often does not last without maintenance.

Areas requiring further discussion

Free data and viability

Participants noted that free exchange between governments is essential and should be preserved, while also some cautioned that unrestricted access could weaken incentives for commercial investment.

Open or strategic

One idea raised was data open to all, with users contributing to its cost; it was also noted that data should be treated as a strategic asset.

WMO's role

Views differed on how far WMO should go. Some wanted a WMO guideline on licensing; others cautioned that WMO should not dictate how Members do business, and that quality thresholds could exclude innovative providers.

Public–private boundary

Clearer public and private roles were seen as helping companies decide where to invest, while it was also noted that the boundary will never be crystal clear and is for each country to decide.

Safety and returns

Participants called for a balance between public safety and commercial viability.

No one model

Privately owned, publicly owned and hybrid models were discussed, and it was noted that no one model fits all.

The road to Cg-20

DONE ✓ **22 JUN**
OCP-HL-7
Shared vision; towards action

DONE ✓ **7 OCT**
Amsterdam
Clear roles and rules

DONE ✓ **21 OCT**
SERCOM-4
AI and the NMHS public mandate

NEXT ○ **27 NOV**
INFCOM side event
Outcomes of Amsterdam and SERCOM-4

2027 ○ **2027**
Regional OCPs
RA I Africa, RA II Asia (TBC) and Others (TBC)

TARGET ★ **JUN 2027**
Cg-20
Recommendations for Members to consider

Approved by: Celeste Saulo, 23 November 2026 17:57 UTC+1, Doc ID: WMOD-1457336098-6797214