

ESSL History

1-4 Feb 2000	Vision of ESSL first presented by Nikolai Dotzek at the Conference on European Tornadoes and Severe Storms in Toulouse
2002	Vision of ESSL formulated in a pilot study by Nikolai Dotzek, while visiting the NSSL in Norman, Oklahoma
11 Nov 2004	Version 1.00 of the European Severe Weather Database (ESWD) data format decided at the 3 rd European Conference on Severe Storms by the ESWD data format committee lead by Pieter Groenemeijer. First version of ESWD online at website of the European Storm Forecast Experiment.
22 May 2005	ESWD moved to ESSL
11 Jul 2006	ESWD data format 1.40 described in ESSL Tech. Rep. 2006-01. ESWD Version 2, which was based on this data format, became operational shortly before the founding of the ESSL.
28 Sep 2006	<p>Founding assembly (phone conference) for a non-profit research association (ESSL, European Severe Storms Laboratory e. V.) on invitation by Nikolai Dotzek.</p> <p>Chairman of the founding assembly: Alois M. Holzer</p> <p>The further founding members: Bernold Feuerstein, Pieter Groenemeijer, Dario Giaiotti, Maria-Carmen Llasat, Romualdo Romero, Martin Setvák, Fulvio Stel and Jenni Teittinen.</p> <p>Statutory Seat: Oberpfaffenhofen, 82234 Wessling, Germany.</p> <p>Structure of the Executive Board and elected persons: Director (Dotzek), Deputy Director (Feuerstein), Technical Director (Groenemeijer), Secretary (provisionally by Dotzek), Treasurer (provisionally by Dotzek).</p>
31 Oct 2006	Resumption of the founding assembly (phone conference) for minor formal changes to the Articles of Association
8 Dec 2006	ESSL registered in the Register of Associations (Munich registry court)
21 Dec 2006	Status of benefit to the public granted by tax office Fürstenfeldbruck
01 Jan 2007	Start of first third-party funded research projekt with ESSL involvement, RegioExakt, coordinated by Nikolai Dotzek. RegioExakt was funded by German Education and Research Ministry (BMBF).
11 Aug 2007	DWD (Germany) becomes ESSL's first institutional full member
12 Sep 2007	<p>General Assembly at the ECSS in Trieste, Italy.</p> <p>Major Amendments of the AoA. From now on there are 4 members in the Executive Board, elected for the period 01/01/2008 to 31/12/2010: Director (Dotzek), Deputy Director (Feuerstein), Technical Director (Groenemeijer) and Treasurer (Holzer).</p>
31 Dec 2007	17 ESSL members
25 Sep 2008	EUMETSAT becomes second institutional full member
02 Oct 2008	<p>General Assembly as a side meeting of the EMS annual meeting in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.</p> <p>6 Advisory Council Members in office: Vincenzo Levizzani (Italy), Daniel Rosenfeld (Israel), Robert Sausen (chair, Germany), David M. Schultz (Finland), Michael Staudinger (Austria), Gerhard Steinhorst (Germany)</p>
21 Nov 2008	Version 3 of ESWD, developed by Pieter Groenemeijer and Zhongjian Liang is presented. Launch of operational data-exchange launched at DWD-meeting in Offenbach, Germany.
31 Dec 2008	22 ESSL members
27 Jul 2009	AustroControl becomes third institutional full member

12-16 Oct 2009	5th ECSS in Landshut, Germany, organized and hosted by ESSL
15 Oct 2009	General Assembly as a side meeting of the ECSS in Landshut, Germany, (organized by ESSL) with amendment of the Articles of Association (AoA)
31 Dec 2009	32 ESSL members
01 Jan 2010	ESSL's first involvement in an EU-funded project: Extreme WEather impacts on Networks of Transport (EWENT).
08 Jan 2010	At EB-meeting in Berlin final new ESWD quality control scheme (QC0 to QC2) and verbal descriptions are decided.
29 May 2010	Unexpected death of Nikolai Dotzek near his hometown in Bavaria
01 Jun 2010	Mourning session of the remaining Executive Board. Deputy Director Bernold Feuerstein serves provisionally as acting director, according to the AoA and Rules of Procedure for the Executive Board (RoP).
18 Jun 2010	ZAMG (Austria) becomes fourth institutional full member
14 Sep 2010	General Assembly in Zürich, Switzerland with decision on new structure of the Executive Board: Director, 3 deputy Directors, Treasurer.
21 Nov 2010	ESSL-Testbed idea for the first time discussed by Aurora Bell, Bernold Feuerstein and Pieter Groenemeijer after the EB-meeting in Offenbach
09 Dec 2010	NMA (Romania) becomes fifth institutional full member
31 Dec 2010	38 ESSL members, 7 NWS ESWD partners, 9 Skywarn-like ESWD partners
25 Jan 2011	FMI (Finland) becomes sixth institutional full member
09 Feb 2011	New AoA accepted by the court of registry. New AoA come into force, therewith also the newly elected Executive Board takes officially office, and 3 persons from now on are ESSL honorary members, according to the decision of the 2010 GA: Birgit Büsing, Gregor Dotzek and Armin Dotzek (Nikolai Dotzeks widow and sons, who always strongly supported the work of ESSLs founder)
10 Mar 2011	CHMI (Czech Republic) becomes seventh institutional full member
29 Jul 2011	Executive Board decision in Krumbach (Austria) to perform the ESSL Testbed and to rent ESSL facilities (after a visit to the same) in Wiener Neustadt (Austria). Motion to the General Assembly planned.
03-07 Oct 2011	ESSL is co-organizer of the 6th ECSS in Palma de Mallorca, Spain – together with the University of the Balearic Islands
07 Oct 2011	The ESSL-GA passes an order to the EB to establish a subsidiary association in Wiener Neustadt (Austria), mainly to perform the ESSL Testbed there.
01 Nov 2011	Start of first larger third-party funded project STEPCLIM (Severe Thunderstorm Evaluation and Prediction in CLimate Models).
07 Nov 2011	Founding Assembly of “European Severe Storms Laboratory – Science and Training” with seat in Wiener Neustadt, Austria. Founders: Alois M. Holzer and Pieter Groenemeijer.
08 Nov 2011	“European Severe Storms Laboratory – Science and Training” with status of benefit to the public registered in the Austrian register of associations. Official invitation by the register to start the business.
27 Jan 2012	First General Assembly of “European Severe Storms Laboratory – Science and Training” in Oberpfaffenhofen and election of first regular Executive Board.
09 Feb 2012	The ESSL-Testbed and ESSL Science and Training activities are approved unanimously by the Advisory Council.
01 Mar 2012	Office in Wiener Neustadt opens.
27 Apr 2012	First ESSL Executive Board meeting in the new ESSL Research and Training Centre in Wiener Neustadt.
04 Jun 2012	Start of the first ESSL Testbed in Wiener Neustadt: 67 participants from 21 countries perform Testbed activities for a total of 5 consecutive weeks.
21 Jun 2012	Official Grand Opening of the ESSL Research and Training Centre in Wiener

	Neustadt. More than 30 representatives and guests celebrate with the ESSL staff, including the Minister Counsellor of the German Embassy, the Ambassador of Romania, the ÖGM President representing the EMS president, the chief of WMO Regional Office for Europe representing the WMO RVI president, the mayor of Wiener Neustadt, a representative of the governor of Lower Austria, the Director of the ZAMG and many more.
06 Sep 2012	General Assembly as a side meeting of the EUMETSAT conference in Sopot, Poland, passing new Articles of Association with a now flexible number of Deputy Directors.
01 Oct 2012	Institute for Hydrometeorology and Seismology of Montenegro becomes eighth full institutional member
20-21 Jun 2013	SHMU (Slovakia) and DHMZ (Croatia) Montenegro become ninth and tenth institutional full members.
12 May 2014	Consorzio LaMMA (Italy, Tuscany region) becomes ESSL's eleventh institutional full member.
11 Dec 2015	At an extraordinary Advisory Council meeting the Executive Board expresses its gratitude to the leaving long-term chair of the Advisory Council, Prof. Dr. Robert Sausen, whose role was important since the foundation of the ESSL. Hans-Joachim Koppert succeeds him from 1 Jan 2016.
15 Dec 2015	The European Weather OBserver app (EWOB) was released.
20 May 2019	Registration of EWOB as European Trademark. Other European Trademarks of ESSL are: ESSL, ECSS and ESWD.
1 July 2019	New rental agreement with the City of Wiener Neustadt for the enlarged office and seminar space of the ESSL Research and Training Centre in Wiener Neustadt, Austria (before 153 m ² , now 306 m ²).
13 June 2022	Start of first week of ESSL Testbed 2022 as the first in-presence event after the Pandemic in the enlarged seminar premises. First EUMETSAT-ESSL-Testbed starts on 27 June 2022, based on a new cooperation since March 2021.
31 May 2023	The idea of founding a company for "ESSL Services" was for the first time discussed in a phone call between the Treasurer and the ESSLeV tax advisor.
31 January 2024	The Executive Board of both ESSLeV and ESSL-ST support the idea of founding an ESSL company under Austrian law for the commercial type of activities that cannot be performed under the ESSL non-profit associations. The ESSL Advisory Council accepted the proposal of the EB for ESSLeV to become a shareholder in this company in April 2024. The name of the company shall be "ESSL Services GmbH".
9 October 2024	The company "ESSL Services GmbH" was registered at the Austrian register of companies under the number FN 635400m. The first regular meeting of shareholders (23.75 % for each ESSLeV and ESSL-ST, the rest in widespread shareholdings) was held online on 14 February 2025. Pieter Groenemeijer and Alois M. Holzer received confirmation as Managing Directors of the company.

Alois M. Holzer, Pieter Groenemeijer. Last revision on: 25 February 2025

No responsibility is taken for the correctness of this information, which is for overview purposes only. Official assembly and meeting minutes prevail.