



ECSS2025 in Utrecht, the Netherlands

The **12th edition of European Conference on Severe Storms** was held in Utrecht, the Netherlands in collaboration with local organizing partner, the [KNMI – Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute](#), and supported by [EUMETSAT](#) and the [European Meteorological Society](#). A record-breaking number of **355** scientists, operational forecasters, students, risk and emergency managers from **41 countries** participated. In total, they gave **80 oral presentations** and presented **200 posters** in **12 sessions**.



Official ECSS2025 Conference Photo (photo credit: ESSL, Igor Laskowski)

The second day of the conference was entirely dedicated to the use of satellite data and included a panel discussion hosted by **Stephan Bojinski** from **EUMETSAT**, which explored the new possibilities offered by the **Meteosat Third-Generation (MTG)** satellites.



MTG panel discussion

During the conference, the first in-person (hybrid) **TIM Field Campaign** meeting was convened, where the financing status was addressed and topical group coordinators shared their visions for the campaign's practical implementation.

On the third day of the conference, one session and panel discussion was dedicated to **Charles "Chuck" Doswell III**, who passed away earlier this year. Chuck played a pivotal role in encouraging the European meteorological community to establish a dedicated centre for research and education on thunderstorms and tornadoes. His vision ultimately led to the founding of the European Severe Storms Laboratory (ESSL) in 2006.





Panel Discussion on Chuck Doswell's legacy

During the conference dinner, held in the beautiful setting of the Nicolaïkerk (St Nicholas' Church) in Utrecht's Museum Quarter, the **Nikolai Dotzek Award**, the most prestigious prize in the severe weather research community, was presented to **Professor Yvette Richardson** in recognition of her scientific achievements.

You can read more about her and her work [here](#).



Nikolai Dotzek Award Ceremony at the ECSS2025 Conference Dinner on 19 November 2025 in Utrecht, the Netherlands. From left to right: Alois Holzer, ESSL; Michou Baart de la Faille, ESSL; Yvette Richardson, Penn State University – Nikolai Dotzek Awardee 2025; Bogdan Antonescu, ESSL; Pieter Groenemeijer, ESSL. Photo: ESSL, Igor Laskowski.

It was also a pleasure to present the EMS **Young Scientist Conference Award (YSCA)** to **Dr. Monika Feldmann** on behalf of the European Meteorological Society.





From right to left: Monika Feldmann, University of Bern – awardee of the EMS YSCA; Bogdan Antonescu, ESSL; Alois Holzer, ESSL; Tanja Renko, ESSL; Michou Baart de la Faille, ESSL; Pieter Groenemeijer, ESSL. Photo credit: ESSL, Igor Laskowski.

On the last day of the conference, the jury and audience awards, as well as the Tooming Award, were presented to the following persons:

- **Best Jury Talk ECSS2025**

Daphne LaDue, David Roueche, Frank Lombardo, and Lara Mayeux - *Advancing Forensic Engineering Analyses of Tornadoes with Survivor's First-Hand Accounts*

- **Best Jury Poster ECSS2025**

Lisa Schielicke, Luna Awad, and Keya Raval - *Simulation of Canadian severe weather events using Cloud Model 1*

- **Best Audience Talk ECSS2025**

Lydia Spychalla, Matthew Kumjian, Kelly Lombardo, Joshua Soderholm, and Jannick Fischer - *Timescales of Evolution for Supercell Updrafts and their Impact on Hail Trajectories*

- **Best Audience Poster ECSS2025**

Adrien Burq, Greta Cazzaniga, Davide Faranda, Mathieu Vrac, Victor Xing, and Jean Jouhaud - *A novel Deep Learning framework for lightning probabilistic prediction based on ERA5 reanalysis data and lightning observations.*

- **Tooming award**

The Tooming award is presented to the best contribution with authors from at least two

different European countries. This year, the awarded collaborative project included authors from Italy, Czechia, and the Netherlands.

Blanka Piskala, Johanna Mayer, Thorsten Fehr, Edward Malina, Daniele Gasbarra, and Ondrej Nedelcev - [**Satellite Multi-Sensor Perspective on Electrified Convection: EarthCARE and MTG-LI Synergy**](#)

We would like to thank everyone who participated and helped to make this conference special and rich in high-quality scientific content.

We also invite you to save the date for the next edition of the ECSS, which will take place from **18–22 October 2027** in the beautiful city of **Genoa, Italy**.



20 years of ESSL – monthly jubilee topic

What non-Europeans say about the ECSS

As part of the celebrations of 20 years of ESSL, we are publishing a series of monthly jubilee topics highlighting different aspects of our work and community. This month, we focus on the ECSS and asked three colleagues from outside Europe what makes this conference unique.

Severe storms researcher, USA

I went to the ECSS to connect with the European

hail community, and it was a great opportunity to connect and share ideas with other scientists tackling hail questions outside the US. Our research is often focused on the specific hazards of our home country, so traveling to ECSS highlighted for me the need for better understanding of hail and storms in mountainous terrain.

The ECSS does a great job of bringing together people from across weather-related sectors, forecasters, scientists, insurance and risk analysts to learn from one another about the diverse knowledge and needs of each sector. The diversity of attendees at ECSS helps to broaden our research silos and to bring to our attention the scientific questions that are useful for the day-to-day work of those in other sectors.

I thought the social program was great during the conference and helped facilitate connection between people attending the conference who did not already know each other.

Prof. Paul Markowski (USA)

I never get tired of engaging with the European severe storms community and learning more about their forecasting challenges and perspectives. The 12th ECSS did not disappoint - it was another terrific scientific meeting, with high-quality presentations, outstanding organization, and a collaborative, welcoming atmosphere.

The ECSS does an excellent job of blending rigorous science with community building. The quality of the technical program is consistently very high, and the conference provides exceptional opportunities to network, form new collaborations, and deepen existing ones across national and disciplinary boundaries.

The strong sense of international community and the conference's focus on both basic and applied science, including real-world impacts, are special. That balance, and the welcoming, collegial culture, should absolutely be preserved!

I went to the ECSS because it is the best scientific conference for my sub-discipline, featuring a diverse group of scientists from around the world who are experts in a wide range of topics pertaining to severe convective storms... and it turned out to be the best edition of an ECSS yet! I was very impressed with the quality of the scientific talks, the venue, and the overall experience.

ECSS brings together a wonderful community of scientists who are far more welcoming and inclusive than some of the U.S. counterparts. The quality of the science is higher, and the diversity of topics of global importance is much greater at ECSS than at U.S. severe storms conferences. The venues are always wonderful, and I always leave feeling inspired and encouraged. I can't say the same about U.S. severe storms conferences.

The lack of parallel sessions! I enjoy hearing about different topics, even those I'm less familiar with, because I can learn from them. Doing parallel sessions (like in the U.S.) means that the groups are segregated, and cross-subdisciplines can't talk to each other or learn from each other. There is no need to increase the number of talks; doing so invariably will lead to greater numbers of sub-par talks, like in the U.S. Having a high bar for getting a talk helps keep the high quality of ECSS.



TIM Airborne Campaign – 1st in-person workshop

On 27 and 28 November 2025, the first workshop for the airborne campaign aspects was held at **Airbus in Toulouse, France**. In total about **30 participants** (about half of them on site, the other half online) worked on refining the priorities for the airborne activities within the TIM campaign. In a first step, the discussions concentrated on wish-lists and must-have components. The preparatory activities of the airborne group within TIM will

continue over the coming months.



ESSL training calendar and Testbed 2026

You can find details about all events and registration at

<https://www.events.essl.org/>

Date	Activity
2 – 6 February 2026	Course with closed audience: Aviation nowcasting of severe convection – focus on new satellite products (MTG)
9 – 13 March 2026	NEW Course: Optimal use of radar data in severe storm nowcasting
23 – 27 March 2026	Course: Forecasting Severe Convection (FSC1)
13 – 17 April 2026	Course: Aviation Forecasting of Severe Convection
4 – 8 May and 18 – 22 May 2026	ESSL-EUMETSAT Forecaster Testbed weeks (t.b.c.) – tentative dates
11 – 12 May and 1 – 2 June 2026	NEW 2-day ONLINE refresher on forecasting severe convection (qualification: at least one prior ESSL course or testbed <u>week</u>)
15 – 19 June 2026	ESSL Testbed 2025 – regular week (focus on radar and NWP)
22 – 26 June 2026	ESSL Testbed 2025 – expert week
7 – 11 September 2026	EMS Annual Meeting (co-sponsored by ESSL)
14 – 18 September and 28 Sep – 2 October 2026	ESSL-EUMETSAT Forecaster Testbed weeks (t.b.c.) – tentative dates
13 – 15 October 2026	IF Scale and wind damage assessment workshop (tentative)
10 – 12 November 2026	Second ESSL Workshop on Weather Warnings (tentative)

Unsure which course to attend? Try our [online quiz!](#)

For further information about the registration for these events, please contact us at: events@essl.org .

Or approach us for tailored trainings or forecaster training on-the-job.



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