

# CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION



## INFORMATION RELEASE

### WEATHER RADAR INSTALLATION NEAR COMPLETION

**Port-of-Spain, 29 February 2008 – The long-awaited Doppler Weather Radar, being installed by the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO), is nearing completion at Brasso Venado in the district of Tabaquite in the central range of Trinidad.**

The weather radar which is under installation in Trinidad & Tobago is part of a 13.2 million Euro (approx TT\$ 128 million) Caribbean weather radar network project funded by the European Union and implemented by the Port of Spain-based Caribbean Meteorological Organization. The weather radar at Brasso Venado is a sophisticated state-of-the-art system built by the Selex-Gematronix company of Germany, which has been placed on a five-storey 20-metre reinforced concrete tower that will house the related equipment.

The CMO is also installing similar new weather radars in Guyana, Barbados and Belize. These four radars will be linked with other existing radars in the Caribbean to form a modern network of nine radars that will be a key component in the ***Caribbean Early Warning System*** for predicting and monitoring severe weather conditions.

**Mr Tyrone Sutherland**, Coordinating Director of the CMO, said that “the installation of the radar at Brasso Venado will be completed within weeks, after which a period of extensive testing will take place. The Caribbean Meteorological Organization expects to hand the radar over to the Government of Trinidad & Tobago for operational use by the Meteorological Service in time for the start of the 2008 hurricane season. The weather radar will provide complete coverage of both islands and out to a distance of 400 km, enabling meteorologists to provide more accurate and timely information on all kinds of severe weather, such as approaching tropical storm and hurricanes, heavy rainfall events, etc. Information from the radar will be made available by the Meteorological Services to the public, national disaster preparedness and emergency agencies and other users in Trinidad & Tobago and throughout the Caribbean via the Internet and the media. In other words, both specialists and the general public will be able to ‘see’ approaching weather on the radars for themselves.

The photographs below show the completed tower and the radar and protective dome in the process of installation.

**For more information please contact:**

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