



Our ref.: OBS/OSD/IMO/SPICE

GENEVA, 2 November 2011

Annex: 1

Subject: Call for Preliminary Expressions of Interest in participating in the WMO Solid Precipitation Intercomparison Experiment (SPICE)

Action required: 1. To advise on potential participation in SPICE  
2. To nominate a SPICE focal point, preferably no later than **30 November 2011**

Dear Sir/Madam,

A global survey of solid precipitation methods and instrumentation, conducted by WMO's Commission for Instruments and Methods of Observation (CIMO) in 2008, revealed the urgent need for improvement of solid precipitation measurements. CIMO, at its fifteenth session (Helsinki, 2-8 September 2010), agreed, as a matter of urgency, to organize an international intercomparison of automated solid precipitation measurement systems.

An International Organizing Committee (IOC) has now been selected for the WMO Solid Precipitation Intercomparison Experiment (SPICE). IOC-SPICE held its first planning meeting in Geneva from 5 to 7 October 2011. It is anticipated that SPICE will be conducted over the next few years concurrently at a number of sites in a range of climatic zones which experience solid precipitation. The experiment is to involve various types and configurations of measurement systems, insofar as they can be accommodated at the participating sites. It is also intended that SPICE serve as a knowledge transfer opportunity. A brief description of SPICE is contained in the annex.

Preliminary expressions of interest in participating in the experiment, and nomination of an appropriate contact for further correspondence on SPICE, are now sought from both WMO Members and members of the Hydro-Meteorological Equipment Industry (HMEI). Participation might comprise provision of an intercomparison host site, or measurement system(s) for assessment, or other participation such as provision of computing facilities and contributing to the analysis of the test data, or simply to collaborate with the SPICE team to use the experiment as a learning experience.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6601)  
Mr Bruce Sumner, HMEI

cc: Members of the IOC-SPICE )  
Invited Experts to the first session of IOC-SPICE )  
Members of CIMO Expert Team on Instrument Intercomparisons ) (for information)  
President of CIMO )

Participating sites will need to comply with specified instrumentation and configuration requirements, and/or offer capacity for the installation of additional instrumentation. WMO Members may wish to collaborate with a domestic instrument manufacturer that is not an HMEI member to propose an instrument for inclusion in SPICE. It is expected that siting capacity will be limited, so no assurance can be provided that all those interested in providing instrumentation can be accommodated. All costs associated with participation need to be met by the participants.

Further details of the experiment and detailed letters of invitation will be sent later this year to your nominated point of contact. Should you wish to participate, please forward your response to the WMO Secretariat as soon as possible, but no later than **30 November 2011**.

May I take the opportunity to express my appreciation for your interest in, and contributions to the activities of the Instruments and Methods of Observation Programme.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(J. Lengoasa)  
for the Secretary-General