

Streamlined process for releasing EUMETSAT software under open-source licenses.

EUMETSAT performs software quality assurance, security and intellectual property rights (IPR) checks as part of the acceptance of any software developed or maintained by internal teams or contractors. The main goal of this triple check is to identify deviations from our coding standards, that may affect the maintainability or availability of our systems; vulnerabilities, that may result in security breaches; and IPR issues, that may affect EUMETSAT rights to use the software or even infringe third-party licenses.

Although most EUMETSAT software has a proprietary license and its distribution is limited, some software is created specifically for public distribution with open-source licenses (e.g.: tools for accessing meteorological data, training materials). This open-source software needs to be checked before its release in order to avoid those potential software quality, security and IPR issues.

For these open-source distribution cases, EUMETSAT is moving from a manual process (slower, activated on demand, with several actors and manual steps) to a new streamlined process using Continuous Integration, automatic tools for checking the software, clear quality gates and well-identified key persons. This process moves the responsibility to the development team, which has now clear indicators about the suitability of the software for distribution under the proposed open-source license. The key persons, providing support in their relevant areas (software QA, security, or legal/IPR), are involved only when required, avoiding bottlenecks and delays.