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Current status and perspectives of the French Tsunami Service Provider operated in France since 2012

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The CENALT (Centre National d'Alerte aux Tsunamis) has been operating as the French TSP (Tsunami Service Provider) since 2012. Its objective is to disseminate warning messages towards the French national civil protection agency and the international subscribers, in less than 15 min following a tsunamigenic earthquake in the Western Mediterranean Sea and the North-East Atlantic Ocean. Early localization and characterization of the source event are made possible through the interpretation of geophysical data received from several networks, including those available from national and international cooperations. Seismic data and sea level variations are monitored in real time by the on-duty operator.

We present here the events monitored by the CENALT since 2012 and the main information messages that have been disseminated. The contribution of the CTBTO IMS seismic stations is underlined, especially concerning the watch in the Atlantic Ocean. To ensure its reliability, the CENALT also participates to national and international exercises. An overview shows how they contribute to the robustness of the system. Finally, numerical modeling plays a growing role in the warning, and preliminary results are presented on the capacity of CENALT to deliver accurate forecast products in the future.

Promotional text

Communication exercises allow the validation of the transmission modes latencies. A focus is presented on the international Neamwave21 exercise. High performance computing offers the perspective to deliver foreseen water heights in less than real time.

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