

Building Momentum: the early years of the UM Partnership

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The Momentum Partnership has its roots in the Operational UM User Group, which began in 2007. This group was formed when a number of National Met Services expressed an interest in using the Unified Model for their own numerical weather prediction and climate projections. In the first few years, a small support team was created, and an initial approach on how Partners could contribute to the scientific and technical performance of the Unified Model was set out. In 2014, the UM Partnership was formally established through a multilateral agreement, and the first set of Partnership Principles was written down. With the advent of Next Generation Modelling Systems aimed at replacing the dynamical core; the latitude longitude grid structure; and developing new capability to move to new computing architectures, a modified agreement was adopted in 2019, recognising the importance of these components and the changes likely to take place. This year 2024 heralds the Momentum Partnership, effectively transforming the Partnership into the Next Generation era. This presentation will focus on the early days of the Partnership, giving a flavour of the initial collaborations, some of the personalities, and outlining a few of the scientific and technical successes and challenges that helped to pave the way to what is now the Momentum Partnership.