

WMO OCP Innovation Webinar, 4 October 2021

## Met Office and Microsoft share information on what their partnership means for the future of the Met Office

**Background:** The Open Consultative Platform (OCP), established at the 18th World Meteorological Congress in 2019, serves as an open, constructive and participatory framework for addressing the grand challenges of the global weather enterprise. In the spirit of collaboration, mutual respect, and trust, the Platform enables all stakeholders to stay abreast of issues and opportunities, both institutional and technological, to motivate collaborative, win-win approaches and to nurture innovation. The cooperation paradigm incorporates active sharing of ideas and interacting with each other to move from isolated actions within a single stakeholder to coordinated initiatives developed and shared across sectoral and organizational boundaries.

Since February 2020, a series of WMO's OCP Innovation Seminars have provided opportunities to public, private, academic, and civil sectors to share innovative practices and ideas. We expect these Seminars to contribute to further engagement among these sectors for even better meteorological services to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change mitigation, and disaster risk reduction.

*(Register [HERE](#) to get Zoom link by email)*

**Date of event:** 12 – 13h UTC (13 – 14h BST, 14 – 15h CEST), Monday, 4 October 2021

**Where:** One-hour virtual webinar open to the public on Zoom

**Organizer:** WMO

**Objective:** In April 2021, the UK Met Office signed a multimillion-pound agreement with Microsoft for the provision of a world-leading supercomputing capability that will take weather and climate forecasting to the next level, and help the UK stay safe and thrive. Once up and running, the new supercomputer will help ensure government, industry and communities are better prepared for severe weather and the changing climate through more detailed models, better forecasting of local-scale weather and increased access to greater amounts of weather and climate data.

Led by the Chief Executive, Prof Endersby, the Met Office is working with Microsoft to harness their next supercomputing capability and data technologies to deliver scientific and technological innovation for weather and climate forecasting. The audience will hear and understand opportunities arising out of such an innovative partnership to enable better contribution to the society.

This Innovation Webinar provides the opportunity for participants to learn more about this leading example of public-private engagement, and to ask questions on the value of this partnership, how it started and is progressing.

**Biography of invited speakers:****Prof Penny Endersby, Chief Executive, Met Office**

Penny became Chief Executive of the Met Office in December 2018, the first woman to hold the position. She is a physicist and engineer by training, with a distinguished career as a government scientist and leader, mostly in the Ministry of Defence. She was instrumental in building up Dstl's capabilities in cyber and data science research, and increasing their pipeline of innovative research and intellectual property. As Chief Executive, Penny leads the strategic direction of the Met Office and is: the UK's Permanent Representative to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO); Executive Sponsor of the BAME Network of the UK Met Office, and; Executive Sponsor of the Met Office's Net Zero Strategic Action. In 2020, Penny was

elected Vice President of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF). She is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics and a visiting professor in Electronics and Computer Science at the University of Southampton. Penny is married to a teacher, and they have two musical grown-up children. Penny is a keen naturalist and musician, and an active member of Exeter Cathedral, including as a singer and adviser to Chapter on ecological issues.

**Mr Charles Ewen, Technology Director / Chief Information Officer, Met Office**

Charles is the Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for the Met Office's Supercomputing 2020+ Programme, a billion-pound research and innovation investment enabling the Met Office to enhance the UK's capabilities in the areas of weather and climate science and services. The programme is managed through UK Government's Major Projects Portfolio. Charles is accountable for enabling the supercomputing investment outcomes through delivery of socio-economic benefits for the UK. Charles is also accountable for all aspects of Information Technology and sponsor of the Digital, Data and technology Profession at the Met Office. He oversees the delivery of world-class IT capability which supports the world-

leading science and services which encompasses supercomputing, high capacity computing, storage systems and digital technologies. He is responsible for integrating cutting-edge supercomputing, cloud adoption and modernising ways of working to deliver a more efficient and effective IT capability. Latterly, he has been the Senior Responsible Owner of a major cross-organisational efficiencies programme as well as other large Programmes. Joining the Met Office as Head of Web and Media in 2008, Charles worked in a variety of senior technology roles before becoming Director of Technology in 2014. Prior to joining the Met Office Charles worked in the private sector leading and delivering high profile change projects and programmes to enable established organisations to adopt emerging technologies. This included some of the first large online commerce systems as well as large-scale integrations through acquisitions, mergers, and transformations. He ran a small consultancy business specialising in eCommerce and ERP integration solutions for retail sector companies. Charles undertook a degree apprenticeship with the RAF, graduating with a Higher National Diploma in Electronic Systems and serving for eight years before working in systems design and engineering in the defence sector. He then spent several years in industry helping a range of organisations adopt emerging technologies and leading operational technology teams in the US, UK, and Asia. He is a Chartered IT Professional with the British Computer Society.

**Ms Clare Barclay, CEO, Microsoft UK**

On October 1, 2020, Clare was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Microsoft UK where she is responsible for all of Microsoft's product and service offerings in the UK for our commercial customers and partners. Previously, Clare was Microsoft UK's Chief Operating Officer for four years where she orchestrated the direction and success of the sales, marketing and services resources in each of Microsoft UK's business groups. In this role she also led strategy and planning for the UK subsidiary, while overseeing the central marketing function for the subsidiary.

With nearly three decades in the IT industry, most of them in diverse roles across Microsoft, Clare was previously General Manager of the Small, Medium Enterprise & Partner Group at Microsoft UK. In this role she led a team driving sales and marketing efforts, and providing comprehensive solutions for small to medium-sized businesses and Microsoft's partner community.

Before joining Microsoft, Clare held many business development and marketing related roles within the IT and distribution channel. In 2019, Clare was appointed to the Advisory Council of the British Heart Foundation. She is also a member of the CBI's Economic Growth board. Clare lives in London with her husband and two young sons.

**Mr Chris Perkins, General Manager, Public Sector, Microsoft UK**

Chris leads the UK Public Sector team. Under his leadership, the team provides technical and industry-specific expertise and the delivery of high-quality solutions to the UK public sector. They are focused on forging deep connections and partnership with customers across government, health and education to manage their digital transformation. Chris joined Microsoft in 2009, and has worked in a variety of roles - most recently leading the team that manages Microsoft's relationships with small and medium-sized customers. Prior to Microsoft, Chris worked at IBM. Outside of work, Chris is a keen football fan and enjoys skiing with his family.

**Relevant news release:** [Supercomputing leap in weather and climate forecasting - Met Office](#)