

## THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR THE FLOATING PIERS



From June 18 to July 2, 2016 Christo and Jeanne-Claude's art installation titled "The Floating Piers" attracted hundreds of thousands of people to Italy's Lake Iseo. The impressive bright yellow structure was made up of over 43 miles of fabric. It was supported by a modular system of floating platoons that allowed observers to walk on top of the lake from Sulzano to Monte Isola and to the island of San Paolo. The enormous structure not only created a one-of-a-kind art experience, but also left the piece and its observers at the constant mercy of the elements.

### PROTECTING VISITORS FROM SUMMER THUNDERSTORMS

The artists wanted both a memorable and safe experience for their visitors. Lake Iseo's location in the foothills of Lombardy make it a prime area for frequent and intense summer thunderstorms. While there are other weather forecasting systems used in the area, Christo and Jeanne-Claude's team knew that they would need advanced, real-time weather data to avoid emergency situations with civilians on the artwork. Thunderstorms and lightning discharges could prove especially dangerous to visitors walking just above the water.

### 24/7 SUPPORT FROM RADARMETEO & EARTH NETWORKS

Christo and Jeanne-Claude commissioned Earth Networks' partner Radarmeteo to interpret weather information and keep visitors safe during the 16-day event. Radarmeteo's meteorologist technicians were present in the operations room every day of the installation, 24/7, to support all meteorological-related decisions. Radarmeteo's partnership with Earth Networks allowed them to provide the fastest dangerous thunderstorm warnings to the event managers through Earth Networks' Total Lightning Network®. The combination of cloud-to-ground and in-cloud lightning detection capabilities allowed Radarmeteo to analyze developing storm systems around Lake Iseo in real-time and prevent emergency situations.



## INCREASE LEAD TIMES WITH ADVANCED WARNINGS

### OVERVIEW

For over 40 years, installation artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude have worked to create fascinating works of art. In June 2016, "The Floating Piers" debuted on Italy's Lake Iseo which consisted of 100,000 square meters of shimmering yellow fabric carried by a modular floating 53-foot-wide dock system of 220,000 high-density polyethylene cubes.

### CHALLENGES

Lake Iseo is known for frequent and intense summer thunderstorms. The art installation's sheer mass and outdoor location made it an emergency management nightmare for thunderstorms, lightning strikes and other forms of severe weather. Christo and Jeanne-Claude needed to minimize emergency situations.

### SOLUTION

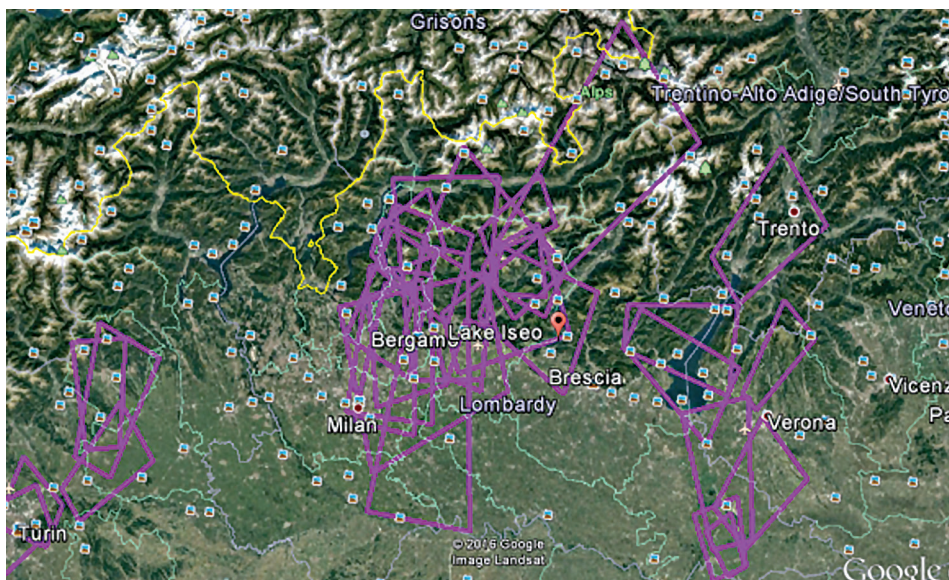
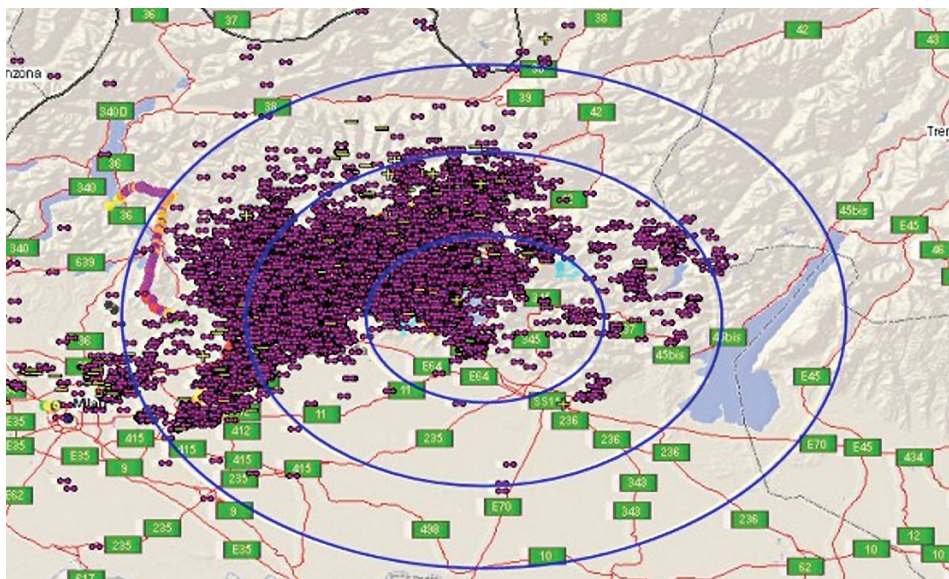
Christo and Jeanne-Claude commissioned Earth Networks' partner Radarmeteo to support critical weather-related decision making during the event. Radarmeteo utilized their expert meteorological technicians, weather stations and Earth Networks Total Lightning Network to support the art installation.

### RESULTS

"The Floating Piers" was a success and emergency evacuations were completed well before storms arrived on the lake.

## WHY IT MATTERS

On June 26, 2016 Radarmeteo's evacuation plan was put to the test during a strong storm system coming from the west. The fast-approaching storm's high frequency of lightning generated 30 of Earth Networks' Dangerous Thunderstorm Alerts and provided Radarmeteo with enough time to implement a code red evacuation to protect those on the piers. Radarmeteo and the artists' team evacuated the piers within 20 minutes and before anyone was in any danger from the storm. In a 12-hour period, Earth Networks detected over 33,000 lightning strikes and Radarmeteo recorded wind gusts of up to 70 kmh over Lake Iseo. Radarmeteo and Earth Networks' vigilance in detecting sudden summer storms helped make "The Floating Piers" an artistic and safe success.



*Earth Networks' Total Lightning Network not only allows us to detect all of the electrical activity present in the atmosphere (both cloud-to-ground and in-cloud lightning), but it also enables us to analyze developing storms in real-time and predict their strength and future direction.*



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