Release Note 2026

FEFLOW

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Introduction

Welcome to FEFLOW 11 as part of MIKE 2026.

In this Release Note you will find information about new features, improvements and fixes, and what you need to know to install and get started with FEFLOW 11.

FEFLOW is a subsurface finite-element simulation system that provides best-in-class technology for modelling groundwater flow, contaminants, groundwater age, and heat transport. With its efficient user interface and its yet unmatched range of functionality, FEFLOW has been setting the standard in premium groundwater modelling for over 35 years.

As groundwater and subsurface modelling projects keep getting more demanding, so do the requirements on the capabilities of the modelling software. In this document, you will find recent information about FEFLOW and what you need to know to install it and get started. Being part of the MIKE 2026 release, FEFLOW 11 provides several new key features that are described in the final section of this document.

System requirements

Supported Operating Systems

The supported operating systems listed below have been tested in accordance with MIKE's Quality Assurance procedures. DHI's warranty, as set out in the General Terms and Conditions (Schedule 1) for MIKE software and Software Maintenance Agreement (Schedule 4) only apply when MIKE software is installed and used on these supported systems:

- Windows: Win 10 Pro V22H2, Win 11 Pro V23H2 & V24H2, WinServ 2022 V21H2
- Linux Ubuntu: 22.04 LTS, 24.04 LTS

Any operating system **not listed** is considered **unsupported**. Installing or using MIKE software on an unsupported system is at Licensee's own risk and DHI provides **no warranty**, **no maintenance coverage**, and is **not obligated** to offer support or troubleshooting.

The supported Linux distributions are those that have been tested and verified by DHI for MIKE 2026. Other distributions may, or may not, work and are not recommended. However, past versions of FEFLOW have been successfully installed on other Linux distributions, including Ubuntu Kylin, Galaxy Kylin, AlmaLinux and Debian (all 64-bit).

Please note: Even if an operating system is listed as supported, it will be considered **unsupported** if MIKE software is run in a virtualized environment, e.g., a guest operating system or a Docker container.

Minimum hardware/software requirements

Processor	Compatible with x64 instruction set architecture, 2.2 GHz or higher
Memory (RAM)	16 GB or higher *

Storage	64 GB or higher *
Display	Resolution 1920 x 1080 or higher
Graphics adapter	≥ 2 GB memory, ≥ 24-bit colour, Shader version ≥ 1.30, minimum hardware accelerated OpenGL ≥ 2.0 / recommended hardware accelerated OpenGL ≥ 3.0 with fully supported Windows drivers **
Software requirements	• Browser with internet access for the Online Help • Microsoft .NET Desktop Runtime 8.0.11 (or later patch) for the licensing tool that is part of the FEFLOW installation on Windows systems

* The actual required amount of memory and disk space depends on the usage (application, model setup, size of data files, etc.).

** The (optional) PETSc solver can utilize the GPU on Nvidia® graphics cards with a compute capability of 7.0 or higher. Please note that some of these graphic cards have varying performance in single- compared to double-precision calculations. The GPU functionality is based on version 11.8 of the Nvidia® CUDA® Toolkit.

Installation

To install FEFLOW, please go to the 'windows' folder inside the 'FEFLOW' product folder and execute the 'start.exe' file from the downloaded, un-zipped installation files. Press the 'Install' button to invoke the installation dialog. In the dialog, please click on 'FEFLOW Program Files'. It is recommended to allow the set-up program to check for the latest patch on the MIKE Powered by DHI website.

The set-up program will automatically install all necessary files and folders onto your computer and make the appropriate modifications to the Windows Start menu.

Instructions on how to install and license FEFLOW 11 on a Linux system are provided in the FEFLOW 11 Online Help.

Licensing

With Release 2026, we are introducing a new licensing system for MIKE software.

For on-line users, the new Internet License Server is more secure and robust, and less dependent on a stable internet connection. This should significantly increase the overall reliability of the Internet License Server.

For off-line users, the main difference is that dongles and license files are replaced by a Network License Server that is locked to a specific computer. Just like the old dongles, a Network License Server can distribute licenses across a local network.

The existing Internet License Server will be phased out by the end of 2026. We will communicate more details of this phase-out to users of the existing system in Q2 2026.

In the new system,

- Every company needs an Administrator to manage Entitlements. This role will be created automatically by Customer Care.
- The Administrator can add Users in their company's Webportal.
- The Administrator can set up Local License Servers for off-line usage.
- Users can configure their connection to the Internet License Server or a Local License Server from the new desktop DHI License Manager.

All the required files will be installed during the MIKE Software installation. The details of the installation, configuration and connecting to your License Server are described in the documentation for the DHI License Manager.

Starting FEFLOW

Double-click on the FEFLOW 11 icon on your desktop or launch FEFLOW via the Windows Start menu by selecting the program you would like to start. Typically, this will be 'FEFLOW 11 Standard' or the license-free 'FEFLOW 11 Viewer'.

FEFLOW can be used without a license after switching to Demo mode via Tools – License… in the main menu. This mode is indicated by the word 'DEMO' in the header of the FEFLOW application window and limits file loading and saving to models not exceeding five slices and 12500 nodes.

Support

For general support, please refer to our Customer Care Portal.

If you experience any difficulties, or if you have questions, please contact our Customer Care team at mike@dhigroup.com.

You can also contact your local Customer Care team for support in your local language. A list can be accessed from here.

New in FEFLOW 11

Every new release of MIKE Software consists of new modules, new features and/or corrections to problems or significant inconsistencies discovered in previous releases. Please find below short descriptions of the most significant news.

Context	New feature
Geologic modeling / 3D Supermesh	The new *Structural Model Editor* enables you to build geological models using the FEFLOW graphical user interface. With the editor, you can compile borehole data, fault networks, and stratigraphic sequences, and use them to create a proper modelling domain in the Supermesh projects that are ready to be discretized into finite elements.
Geologic modeling / 3D Supermesh	The *Supermesh Preprocessing* panel equips you with a new set of *Geometric Tools* to correct 3D external datasets that are intended as input for a 3D Supermesh. These tools are powered by Geode-Solutions and allow to reset topology, individualize components, compute intersection, remove outer components, remove components below certain size threshold, and more. The tools can be applied selectively you to improve the quality of specific geometric features at any step of the 3D Supermesh preparation.
Geologic modeling / 3D Supermesh / Python API	FEFLOW 11 provides full support of the *Geometric Tools* by the new *processSupermesh* method of the 3D Supermesh document.
3D Supermesh / Meshing	FEFLOW 11 introduces a new *Layered-mesh generator* powered by Geode-Solutions for the 3D Supermesh interface. The new mesh generator is intended for projects where the model geometry is suited for by a 2.5 D representation (continuous layers).
Geologic modeling / Pinched-out layers	FEFLOW 11 supports layers that do not extend over the full horizontal domain, i.e., that pinch out within the model. These layers can be fully accessed via the *2D Slice view* windows. Layer pinch-out can be achieved via the newly enhanced *3D Slice/Layer Configuration* dialog, or with the new interactive *Fuse-delete* tool that enables removal of selected elements and automatically closes the gap by connecting the elements below to the ones above.
Geologic modeling / Layered meshes	The new *Split Layer* tool allows to locally increase the vertical resolution by splitting a selected (possibly pinched) layer into multiple layers.
Geothermal modeling / Well Manager	The *Well Manager* dialog now includes a dedicated *Open Loop System* section that supports detailed description of geothermal systems. Here, you can define well groups, specify heat demand by temperature difference or power, and configure system parameters.
Geothermal modelling / Result reporting	The *Observation Data* dialog has been extended with a *Geothermal* section to organize all modelling results related to geothermal closed-loop systems (BHE) and open-loop systems. This enhancement provides higher flexibility for comparing modelled vs. simulated values and control of user-defined chart settings.

Geothermal modelling / Charts	FEFLOW 11 introduces multiple new charts that specifically support geothermal applications: BHE Heat Rate, Open-Loop Heat Rate, Open-Loop Flow Rate, Open-Loop Temperature Difference and Open-Loop Inlet/Outlet Temperature.
Well Manager	Workflows in the *Well Manager* have been improved. The *Well Group* creation is now independent of a preliminary well definition. This allows you to define and create the groups and their corresponding settings a priori. Subsequently, groups can be assigned to wells on demand.
Well Manager / Interactive assignment	The *Editor* toolbar (commonly used for the assignment) has been extended to support the interactive assignment of well groups. By using existing selection tools, you can now group BHEs, MLWs and Well BCs in *Slice* and *3D view windows*.
Computational performance	Efficiency improvements to the numerical engine and to the treatment of constrained boundary conditions make FEFLOW 11 faster than earlier versions.
Visualization	*Cross-sectional views* can now display boundary conditions and observation points. This enhancement improves model interpretation and presentation by showing key elements such as wells in the local context.
Python Usage	FEFLOW 11 includes a full-featured scripting editor and Python console as part of the graphical user interface. Without leaving the FEFLOW GUI, you can write, format, and run scripts, customize the environment, install packages, and encrypt scripts for added security.
Python API	To streamline the integration of sparse data into FEFLOW models, the Python API has been extended by new regionalization methods that enable direct interpolation of external datasets. You can use them to efficiently assign elemental and nodal parameters, such as material properties or boundary conditions, with custom interpolators.
Licensing and SMA-Benefits	With FEFLOW 11, the *FEFLOW Advanced Features* package introduces Python, Geomodelling and Geothermal modules. The package gives unlimited access to new specific and advanced software developments through the duration of the subscription period or the duration of the service maintenance (SMA) period.

Known issues

No known issues at time of release.