



1st ACCORD LTM meeting
Monday 12 April 2021
15:15-17:15
visio-conference

Minutes

Participants

ALGERIA	Mohamed Mokhtari	LITHUANIA	Martynas Kazlauskas
AUSTRIA	Christoph Wittmann	MOROCCO	Siham Sbiï
BELGIUM	Alex Deckmyn	NETHERLANDS	Jan Barkmeijer
BULGARIA	Boryana Tsenova	NORWAY	Jørn Kristiansen
CROATIA	Antonio Stanesic	POLAND	Bogdan Bochenek
CZECH REP	Radmila Brožková	PORTUGAL	Maria Monteiro
DENMARK	Bent Hansen Sass	ROMANIA	Alexandra Craciun
ESTONIA	Ivar Ansper	SLOVAKIA	Jozef Vivoda
FINLAND	Carl Fortelius	SLOVENIA	Neva Pristov
FRANCE	Ghislain Faure	SPAIN	Javier Calvo
HUNGARY	Gabriella Szépszó	SWEDEN	Heiner Körnich
ICELAND	Halldór Björnsson	TUNISIA	Haythem Belghrissi
IRELAND	Saji Varghese	TURKEY	Yelis Cengiz

PM: Claude Fischer
 CSS: Patricia Pottier
 CSC-Leaders: Eric Bazile, Jeanette Onvlee, Martina Tudor
 CNA: Maria Derkova (Mariska)

Agenda

<i>Item</i>	<i>Introduced by</i>	<i>Preparatory document</i>
1. Introduction of CNA and new LTMs	PM	
2. How to register the "CEpQA" manpower (link with RWP)	PM	2.CEpQA_note
3. Common Manpower Register (new)	CSS	
4. Instructions for the RWP-2022	PM	
5. Detailed Actions Plan 2021	PM	
6. Information about MF progress on e-suites	French LTM	
7. Information about cycles	Integration Leader	
8. A.O.B.		

1. Introduction of CNA and new LTMs

Claude introduces the new LTMs: Alexandra (Romania), Ghislain (France) and also gives the floor to Halldór (Iceland) and Martynas (Lithuania) who missed the tour de table at the kick-off meeting.

See the LTM gallery photo ([Annex I](#)).

Claude introduces the Coordinator for Networking Activities (CNA) Maria Derkova (Mariska) and explains her role in ACCORD: the CNA shall assist the PM and the Integration and System leaders in the following tasks: preparation of the Local Team Managers ("LTM") meetings and the coordination of actions to be taken by the LTMs; supervise changes in the preparation of input files necessary for the Members, in order to run local versions of the System (for example: coupling files, climatological files); coordinate the tests of new versions of the System: help on the local installation, distribute the needed technical tasks among the Members; ensure relevant technical information is made available among Members; participate in MG meeting when needed.

2. How to register the "CEpQA" manpower (link with RWP)

According to the item 59 of the ACCORD MoU: "Each Member and acceding Member shall contribute a minimum amount of human resources to the RWP. This minimum is defined as 2 full-time-equivalent staff (FTE) for the whole RWP, including at least 1 FTE for the "Code engineering, phasing and quality assurance".

Claude explains that Code Engineering, phasing and Quality Assurance (CepQA) will be monitored through the registration in the Common Manpower Register (CMR). A description of the tasks that will be accounted for CEpQA (in link with the RWP) is proposed in the preparation note (see [Annex II](#)).

Heiner comments that this description of the tasks that are accounted for the 1 FTE is wider than what was originally discussed (only code engineering and phasing) in the Convergence WG who was writing the MoU. Claude confirms that the final formulation in the MoU includes both QA when creating/installing a new code version (this is also linked to the new practices that will be proposed to prepare and validate new code versions) but also Meteorological QA (in order to follow the global performances of the system) and the teams are encouraged to invest in these activities and report them (only reported activities should be registered in the CMR, although so far there is no imposed format for the reports that could be for instance technical notes made available to all ACCORD colleagues, articles in the Newsletter, posters at the ASW,).

Claude points a new possibility when registering: an additional Work Package has been added to the Common Manpower Register: NoRef. The LTMs can use it for describing work in their teams:

- at the interface between their NWP activity and other projects or collaborations
- when the LTMs want these activities and manpower to be visible at ACCORD level.
- Please note that NoRef manpower will not be accounted for in the ACCORD monitoring and this NoRef WP has a different understanding from the previous NoRef used by ALADIN-LTM.

3. Common Manpower Register (new)

Patricia explains that the interface used since 2018 for the ALADIN-HIRLAM common reporting and the database (ALADIN manpower since 1991 and HIRLAM since 2018) have been frozen. A new interface (CMR) will be available by the end of April for registering the first quarter of 2021. With respect to the previous interface (that contained information/fields kept for continuity with the ALADIN and HIRLAM practices), the registration interface has been simplified and the content of the database accordingly (and with only data from 2018):

- some fields have been removed: *Where*(country where the action was done), *Category of work*
- only 4 *types of work* (instead of 8 previously):
 - training - tuition
 - management
 - CEpQA (see item 2)
 - R&D
- the funding of a registered work is by default the NMS that employs the person who does the work:
 - if the person is funded by another institution than the *NMS* (for instance Ministry of Education, Ministry of Research, National Space Agency, ...), it is considered as funded by the NMS who hosts this person
 - the PM is funded by *ACCORD*
 - the activities of some HIRLAM colleagues who have part of their working time paid by HIRLAM should be declared as funded by *HIRLAM* (this part is monitored by the HIRLAM PM with the concerned LTM)

The "funding" field is only used when producing the manpower statistics for the MoU (besides the decisions where unanimity is the rule, the Assembly voting rules are based on the accumulated manpower invested in the consortium since 2018 by Partner). By manpower invested, it is meant that the manpower is "re-partitioned": the manpower funded (i) by ALADIN in 2018-2020, (ii) by HIRLAM, (iii) by ACCORD (since 2020), is not accounted as manpower of the NMSs who employ them but is distributed (i) evenly over the 16 ALADIN Members who contributed the same to the ALADIN budget that paid the Code Architect and DAsKIT coordinator positions, (ii) over the 10 HIRLAM Members with a weight proportional to the

contribution from each HIRLAM Member to the HIRLAM budget that paid these positions, (iii) evenly over the 26 ACCORD Members who contribute the same to the ACCORD budget that paid the PM position. The text above already reflects the LTM's questions and discussions on this item. The new tool offers possibilities for consultation and on-demand statistics on the manpower already registered, including comparison between the commitments and the registrations.

Patricia gives some examples of what can be registered as management, in link with the management Work Packages in the RWP. For the LTMs, 1 week per quarter was committed in the ACCORD management WP (MNGT4), as the LTM position is a 0.1 FTE position.

For the ACCORD Area Leaders, no manpower was committed in MNGT4 (the AL were not known yet) but as the AL were already active in the RWP, their work has been committed in the relevant R&D WP. The question of on which Work Packages their work should be registered (MNGT4 or the R&D WP in the corresponding areas) is still open and will be discussed by the MG at their next meeting.

Some commitments were made in MNGT1 (ALADIN), MNGT2 (LACE), MNGT3 (HIRLAM) considering only the first quarter of 2021. These WP will disappear in the next RWP, only ACCORD management WP will remain.

Radmila comments that this is too bureaucratic.

Jorn proposes to add automatically in the database 1 week of management for each LTM each quarter, in order to avoid they have to register this themselves.

It is up to each LTM to declare in MNGT4 the amount of time they spend on their liaison work with ACCORD consortium (please refer to the ToR of the LTM in the MoU), in complement/coherence with the activities they may declare on other WP.

Martynas asks for a documentation of the CMR. It is available on the webpage (see "*Information*" button, top right of the page) and the fields to be filled by the LTM come with an information button (please use ).

Patricia will let know the LTMs when the CMR is open for them to register the 1st quarter of 2021. There will be a new link to access the CMR. If needed after the evaluation of these registrations by the ACCORD, HIRLAM and LACE PMs, more explanations will be given and this item rediscussed at the next LTM meeting.

4. Instructions for the RWP-2022

Claude indicates the timeline of actions for the LTMs with respect to the RWP2022:

- during summer: to check the draft content of WPs and compare with locally planned activity and, in case of questions or issues (eg missing items, wrong formulations) to contact corresponding MG member or WP-redactor
- in September: provide commitments

Bent asks about the role of the redactors of the WPs and their interaction with the new MG.

Claude answers that, according to the ToR of the Area Leaders, the MG prepares and follows the realisation of the RWPs. Thus, the preparation of the RWP2022 will be done under the responsibility of the Area Leaders and Management Group in general.

5. Detailed Actions Plan 2021 (DAP2021)

Claude explains that the first step in the preparation for the DAP2021 is the signing of bilateral agreements between Météo-France and the Partners or the consortiums of Partners (LACE, HIRLAM). Then Météo-France will send out the invoices for the annual contributions.

In parallel, Claude and Patricia try to draft a costed DAP2021 with missions, scientific stays and working weeks funded as planned in the MoU ("as if no Covid"), according to this timeline:

- preliminary proposals asked to LTMs at kick-off meeting (14 January)
- early review by MG in end of March
- first proposals underlined by PM and MG on their 9 April meeting
- draft costed DAP to be proposed at the next MG meeting.

Jorn asks about any plans for organising video-meetings or hybrid meetings rather than travels. Claude explains that the discussion started at the MG level: video-conferences offer possibilities for more frequent meetings but in some cases (i.e. for emerging topics, team building, ...) physical meetings are probably needed. In the future, we will probably organise some WW as physical meetings and others on-line, or some hybrid organisation and we need to learn how to video-meet more efficiently. Jorn proposes to share experiences and feedback on video-meetings organisation.

6. Information about MF progress on e-suites

Ghislain gives a digest of Météo-France suites on 2020 and 2021 (see [Annex III](#)) with details on the several upgrades of operational suites that occurred, from cy43t2_op3 (January 2020) to cy43t2_op8 (February 2021) and on the current e-suite cy46t1_op1.

The information about MF suites and e-suites and about cycles (see item 7) were usually made available on the [ALADIN “cycles” webpage](#). The way to publish the same kind of information (possibly on the ACCORD website) will be discussed with the MG.

7. Information about cycles

The content and timing of the cycles have been presented by Claude during [his talk in the code & system session](#).

Claude adds that the next export version will be based on CY46T1_bfX. The build process has started (Claude lists the potential fixes for a CY46T1_bf.07), in coordination with CNA, LACE/ASC, HIRLAM System PL, some GMAP staff (including some DA tests with Arome-France). Hopefully, it will be ready before the summer break.

8. A.O.B.

8.1. information on DestinE activities and steps in ACCORD

Claude already gave general lines about DestinE in [his PM talk](#). As additional information for the LTMs, Claude underlines that the phase 1 is very short (2022-2023): the Call will be launched in July for a submission of proposal in September. The financial envelope for phase 1 is 12 M€ and the accepted proposals will be fully funded (thus don't require additional national funding).

Claude gives a the broad technical lines of what's expected during phase 1:

- hectometric resolution; user or event-driven on-demand facility; added value in form of (one or two) user-oriented capabilities;
- implementation in overall DestinE infrastructure.

The Assembly convened a PAC meeting at the end of March: PAC concluded that DestinE-LAM proposal will require a specific partnership agreement among participants and recommended to take into account the link with UWC and possibly external partners. A WG was tasked to prepare an outline note for the DestinE-LAM proposal, that will be handed over to the STAC for their meeting at the beginning of May.

Claude will keep the LTMs informed regularly, especially once the ACCORD proposal is shaped and will discuss with teams who want to participate, however specific expertise will be searched for according to work packages & eligibility will matter (eg. have contributed to EU's Digital Europe program).

9. Closing

Mariska thanks the LTMs and closes the meeting at 17:15.

Annex I : trombinoscope¹ (on-line photo-gallery)

Local Team Managers

Chaired by CNA 

 Dz: Mohamed Mokhtari	 At: Christoph Wittmann	 Lt: Martynas Kazlauskas	 Ma: Siham Sbii
 Be: Alex Deckmyn	 Bg: Boryana Tsenova	 Nl: Jan Barkmeijer	 No: Jorn Kristiansen
 Hr: Antonio Stanesic	 Cz: Radmila Brožková	 Pl: Bogdan Bochenek	 Pt: Maria Monteiro
 Dk: Bent Hansen Sass	 Ee: Ivar Ansper	 Ro: Alexandra Craciun	 Sk: Jozef Vivoda
 Fi: Carl Fortelius	 Fr: Ghislain Faure	 Si: Neva Pristov	 Es: Javier Calvo
 Hu: Gabriella Szépszó	 Is: Halldór Björnsson	 Se: Heiner Körnich	 Tn: Haythem Belghrissi
 Ie: Saji Varghese	 Tr: Yelis Cengiz		

¹ We introduced in the kick-off minutes this French popular word, meaning “photo gallery with faces”

Annex II: Code Engineering, phasing and Quality Assurance note

Version 3; 02/04/21

Scope of activity of “Code Engineering and Quality Assurance” & corresponding manpower accounting

The aim of this note is to clarify in quite concrete words what activity is meant by “code engineering, phasing and quality assurance” referred in **Article 4, item 59** of the MoU of the ACCORD consortium. This information will help LTMs and HoRs for registering the realized manpower figures on this topic in the Consortium Registration tool. It will be used by management for assessing the 1 FTE per year requirement defined in the MoU.

This Version 3 includes explicit links with the relevant Work Packages from the Accord RWP-2021: **COM2.1, COM3.1, SY2, MQA3**

The following Code Engineering, Phasing & QA activity should be accounted for:

- 1) preparation of scientific or technical contributions for integration in a common code version (mostly T-cycles), their technical QA validation (**ref to Annex II of the MoU**) **[COM2.1]**
- 2) Toulouse or remote participation in the integration process for a common code version (phasing, “mitraille” or “davaï” validation, help on debug) **[COM2.1]**
- 3) specific forward or backward phasing of developments, already available in local operational versions but not yet in a common T-cycle, *provided that this development is referenced and agreed in the common RWP* **[COM2.1]**
- 4) installation and technical validation of a new common version on a local machine (note: do not forget time spent in local debug), *and provided that the outcome is being reported back (*)!*
Note: when significant time was spent on installation, validation and preparation of outcome, even with no specific debug or corrective work necessary, then this effort also can be accounted for (we also appreciate feedback about smoothly working technical installation, indeed) **[COM3.1 for local team efforts (former ALADIN teams or LACE teams most likely) or SY2 for Harmonie-Arome installation coordinated within HIRLAM]**
- 5) meteorological validation using a set of basic meteorological scores and reporting back (*) about the results (**ref: Article 1, item 10** of the MoU). The activity to account for is verification of non-regression in terms of system performance, either of precisely the exported CSC version (possibly using a new model tuning promoted by one CSC Leader) or with a close version after adaptation to local operational constraints (available observations, machine-related tuning etc.) **[MQA3]**
- 6) specific model performance work, triggered by feedback from Forecasters or taken out of the operational suite by daily monitoring. The work should consist of a detailed analysis of model weaknesses using any relevant diagnostic tool, or a well documented assessment of model systematic errors. To be eligible, any such analysis should be reported back (*) with enough details so that *the MG can evaluate its relevance for the common activities* on model improvement. It is advised that the cases should be reproducible later, e.g. by saving the coupling files, namelist and source code of the used configuration. **[MQA3]**

(*) by reporting back we mean any agreed traceable reporting form back to the Consortium, for the benefit of all: via a specific technical note, CNA coordinated communication, publication in the newsletter, dedicated slides or talk at the ASW etc.

Ref: the link to the MoU is http://www.umr-cnrm.fr/accord/IMG/pdf/mou_alh_for_signature.pdf

Annex III: Digest of Météo-France 2020-2021 suites

In operations

During 2020 and the first quarter of 2021, several upgrades of operational suites occurred, from cy43t2_op3 (January 2020) to cy43t2_op8 (February 2021):

- new observations, in particular data from the satellites Metop-C, GOES17, ADM-Aeolus ; new GPS-RO satellites, new providers for airplane data to mitigate the decrease of their number;
- many technical adjustments for observations dataflow;
- upgrades of surface: snow analysis in Arome, bugfix of SST initialisation near the coastlines.
- and some others....

February 2021: Operational suite on new HPC ATOS-AMD

Current e-suite cy46t1_op1

Calendar :

- January to May 2021: selection and building of release candidate for each NWP application in operations (GMAP internal stage)
- Formal e-suite (real-time and made available to forecasters): June 2021
- Expected duration of e-suite : approximately 8 months (*in operations by Q1 2022*)

Highlights

- **EPS systems reach the same resolutions** (both horizontal and vertical) **than their deterministic counterpart** #arpege #arome
- **Changes in physics:**
 - **Tiedke deep convection scheme** #arpege
 - solar radiation: use of SRTM #arpege
 - **air/sea flux parametrisation: Ecume v6** #arpege #arome
- Coupling with **1d sea-ice model** #arpege
- **All-sky assimilation of microwave data** from MHS and ATMS #arpege
- **Snow analysis** #arpege
- Change of **Arome dynamics to improve moist convection**: for hydrometeors, switch off SL horizontal diffusion and use SL linear interpolators
- Upgrade of horizontal resolution of the Arome-Overseas models, from 2.5 to 1.3 km

Other features

- New data from satellites FY3-D (*MWTS-2, MWRI et MWHS-2*) and GOES-16-17 (*ABI*) #arpege
- 2D GNSS-RO operator, use of MESCOAN structure functions in surface analysis #arpege
- Enhancement of radar data assimilation #arome
- Assimilation of GNSS-RO data, of Ascet winds at higher density and of descending radiosonde data #arome
- New output fields, among which the lightning flash density #arpege #arome
- And many others...