

Call for applications to the position of Programme Manager of the ACCORD Consortium December 2024

Since the 1st of January 2021, twenty-six National Meteorological Services from Europe and the Mediterranean Area have joined forces in the single R&D ACCORD Consortium, under the first Memorandum of Understanding – MoU1 covering the period 2021-2025. The consortium is currently preparing the revision of its Memorandum (MoU2) and the organization of the next phase to cover 2026-2030.

As a first important step for this next phase, the Members have adopted an ambitious 2026-2030 Scientific Strategy outlining their objectives in meteorological and computer science for this horizon.

The development of the common codes will continue, in order to support world-leading operational NWP suites operated by the Members, with a priority on high resolution (from kilometre to hectometre grid size), short-range (including nowcasting suites) and high-impact weather. The codes and options therein are currently grouped in three “Canonical System Configurations” (CSC AROME, ALARO and HARMONIE-AROME). The Consortium will continue to strive to increase interoperability, transversal activities and joint R&D work across the CSCs. It will also work to make the codes portable and efficient on various computer architectures, in order to cope with the rapid evolution of HPC systems and encourage maximum competition in procurements of the Members. ACCORD has set for itself the goal to design a common development environment, beyond the achievements of phase 1, and it has defined ambitious goals toward common meteorological quality assurance. ACCORD intends to explore hybrid AI-ML/physics-based approaches and establish ways of collaborating with European initiatives in this rapidly evolving domain.

The human resources provided by the Members for this work represent approximately 150 FTE. These staff are employed by the Members and work at their premises, but meet and interact regularly. All aspects of the work are coordinated internationally by a Management Group. The provisional list of officers, which is not expected to significantly evolve by the end of the full nomination process, is as follows:

- 1 Programme Manager (the “PM”)
- 3 CSC Leaders
- 1 Integration Leader
- About 8 Area Leaders (the precise number will be defined in liaison with the successful PM candidate)
- 1 Scientific Secretary
- 1 Documentation Officer
- 1 Coordinator of Networking Activities

The Consortium will appoint the majority of these officers via calls for applications.

The present call concerns the first officer position, namely the Programme Manager.

The remaining officer positions will be filled via additional calls that will be issued in spring and summer 2025. The successful PM candidate selected via this call will participate in the panel in charge of ranking the applicants to the remaining officer positions. The terms of reference of the PM role are described below.

Eligibility conditions to apply

- You must have a higher education in meteorology or computer science and a demonstrable experience in working on NWP operational suites or similar IT systems. Experience in a leadership position including team building and preparing strategic visions would be highly appreciated. An experience in international collaboration would be an advantage.
- Your application must be supported by one National Meteorological Service Member of the Consortium, who is already your employer or commits to become your employer if you are selected for the job. Salary and other aspects of the position must be discussed with this Member.
- Good knowledge of English.

Calendar and selection process

The deadline to apply to the present call is 4th of April 2025.

Interviews will be organized in the following weeks.

Appointments will be announced as soon as possible thereafter.

How to apply:

- Applications (including references, C.V. and motivation letter) must be sent to Mrs Anne-Lise Dhomps, Météo-France, Consortium Scientific Secretary: css@accord-nwp.org.
- A letter of support should be provided by the Director of the National Meteorological Service who employs/will employ the applicant if selected.
- Further questions can be asked to Mrs Anne-Lise Dhomps.

The Programme Manager position (Full time, duration: 5 years)

The Programme Manager (PM) is the highest executive officer of the management structure of the Consortium. She/he reports directly to the Assembly and is generally responsible for the implementation of the Assembly decisions and for the progress of all activities of the Consortium.

The PM role represents a full-time position held by a single person.

The PM is appointed by the Assembly after a wide call for applications. Each application must be supported by one or several Members.

The mandate of the PM is normally for the duration of the MoU (five years).

The Terms of Reference of the Programme Manager read as follows:

- The PM reports to the Assembly and has authority on the Project and Support teams.
- The PM leads the Management Group and chairs its meetings. He/she can propose to the Assembly to reorganize the Management Group, Project team and Support team in order to increase efficiency.
- The PM establishes appropriate consultation and interaction mechanisms with the Members, via the LTMs, in order to enable smooth coordination and resolve day-to-day difficulties.
- The PM leads the preparation of the Rolling Work Plan (“RWP”) and any Strategy document by the Management Group and makes the necessary arbitration between members of the Management Group. During this process, the PM has authority to exclude an item from the RWP if he/she feels that it is too far from priorities previously adopted by the Assembly.
- The PM manages the Consortium budget with the help of the Scientific Secretary.
- The PM monitors the human resources committed and actually delivered by Members, via the manpower register regularly updated by the scientific secretary.
- The PM attends all sessions of the governance bodies and the annual workshop of all staff. He/she formulates, with the help of the Scientific Secretary, the agenda proposals for these meetings.
- The PM produces with the help of the Management Group and the Scientific Secretary all preparatory documents for the above meetings.
- During the sessions of the governance bodies, the PM usually presents and comments on the preparatory documents. He/she may delegate some of these presentations to other members of the Project team.
- The PM draws the attention of the governance bodies to any discrepancy between the manpower register and the progress of the RWP. More generally, he/she draws the attention of the governance bodies to any difficulties hindering the progress of the Consortium objectives.
- The PM regularly reviews the status of contributions to the T-codes and reports to the Assembly as appropriate.
- The PM prepares and negotiates any co-operation agreement, taking into account guidelines from the Assembly, and the advice of designated committees.
- More generally, the PM strives to implement any decision or action required by the Assembly.

Personal skills:

- Ability to lead and coordinate a scientific and code engineering team across a wide variety of staff at an international scale
- Ability to propose an arbitration on scientific issues, based on expertise information
- Excellent communication skills with the ability to translate complex scientific or

technical information into terminology facilitating discussion and decision-making at General Direction level

- Ability to manage a budget and manpower at a large project scale
- Ability to propose and monitor a Work Plan
- Ability to negotiate with Members on specific managerial issues, such as manpower or staffing