ACCORD
A Consortium for COnvection-scale modelling Research and Development

12th ACCORD STAC meeting

4-5 November 2025
14:00-18:00 & 09:00-12:00 CET
Vienna (hybrid)

Minutes

Participants

Flat-Rate ALADIN MoU5 Representatives	Michiel Van Ginderachter (Belgium)
	Yelis Cengiz (Türkiye) *online*
	Rahma Ben Romdhane (Tunisia) *online*
RC-LACE-MoU5 Representatives	Christoph Wittmann (Austria)
	Jure Cedilnik (Slovenia)
	Andre Simon (Slovakia) *online*
HIRLAM-C Representatives	Saji Varghese (Ireland) **STAC Chair**
	Sami Niemelä (Finland)
	Javier Calvo (Spain)
Météo-France Representatives	François Bouyssel **STAC vice-Chair**
	Christine Lac *online*
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ACCORD PM	Claude Fischer
ACCORD CSS	Anne-Lise Dhomps
ECMWF Observer	Stephen English *online*
Invited experts from ACCORD Management Group	• Dynamics AL: Ludovic Auger *online* • Meteorological Quality Assurance AL: Carl Fortelius • Transversal activities AL: Daan Degrauwe *online* • Physics AL: Metodija Shapkalijevski *online* • System AL: Daniel Santos *online* • Data Assimilation AL: Benedikt Strajnar • EPS AL: Henrik Feddersen • *Integration Leader: Alexandre Mary (excused)* • Surface AL: Patrick Samuelsson • CSC leader ALARO: Martina Tudor • CSC leader AROME: Eric Bazile • CSC leader HARMONIE-AROME: Jeanette Onvlee *online*

1. Opening

Saji welcomed everyone to the 12th and last ACCORD STAC of phase 1 which is a joint STAC and MG meeting.
He also thanked Gesophere and Christoph for the hosting.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda

Saji explained that the agenda of this STAC meeting has 4 items: report on 2025, feedback on phase 1 and how to improve for phase 2, RWP2026, STAC composition for phase 2.

The agenda was adopted by the STAC.

3. Reports by PM:

Saji gave the floor to Claude to present achievements of 2025.

3.1. Achievements of the RWP2025 actions

Claude came back to the first part of the report, the management aspects:

- DAP procedure aligned with RWP (as in 2024)
- Approval of the Common Scripting System roadmap by the A/A on 7/7/2025, (that had been prepared by a specific working group)
- Documentation (Doc Officer, Jana Sanchez from AEMET):
    - inventory, welcome pack, (documented) namelist repo, **scientific doc of the code**
- ECMWF:
    - start of investigation toward a more continuous integration process (“CI”)
    - exchanges about the ECMWF “IFS software strategy”
- Cooperation with LEGMC
    - strong interest into the customizable visualization interface tool

Then Claude highlighted a few headlines per area.

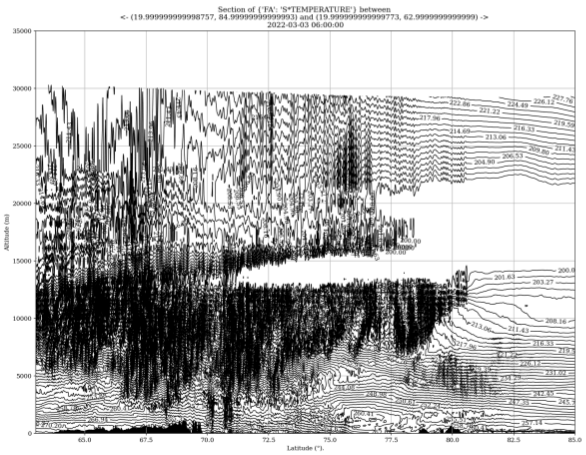
Dynamics

- New options implemented in official cycles and available for further testing (formulation of SI operator, bottom boundary condition, SL option COMAD …)
- A very challenging test domain: including the Himalayan mountains and the Tibetan plateau (high plateau, steep slopes)
- FVM + AROME physics using GT4py and/or DACE infrastructure (70% of code … recoded)

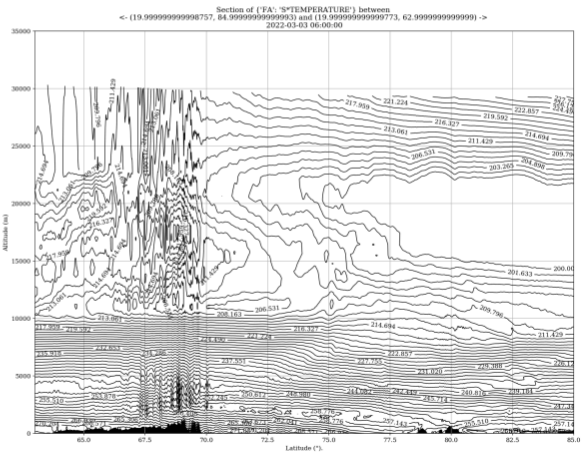
Svalbard problematic run with PC scheme

AROME (1250m, L90, 50s) Temperature after 30H forecast :

PC + SI_CST



PC + SI_UPDATE

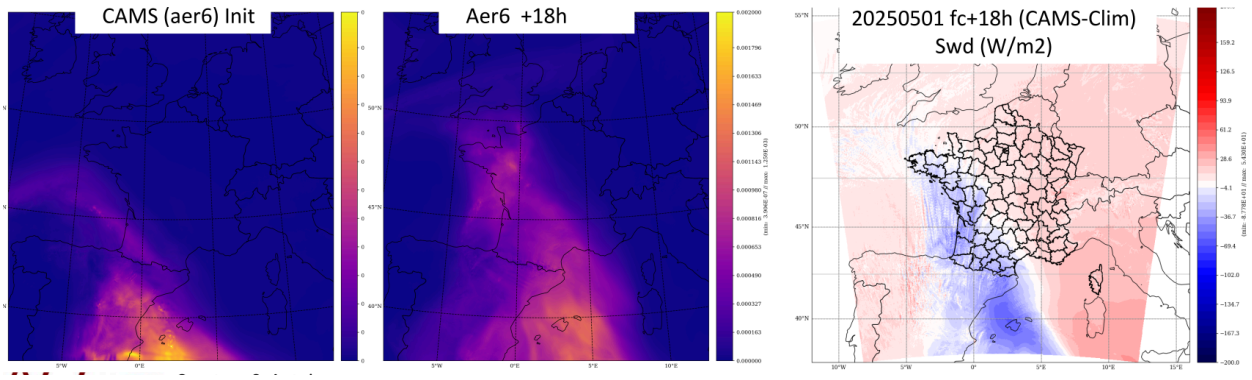


Courtesy by Fabrice Voitus, MF

Physics: NRT aerosols

Claude explained that this activity is really across CSCs and an example of good cooperation with many teams involved, working both on the science and on the workflow.

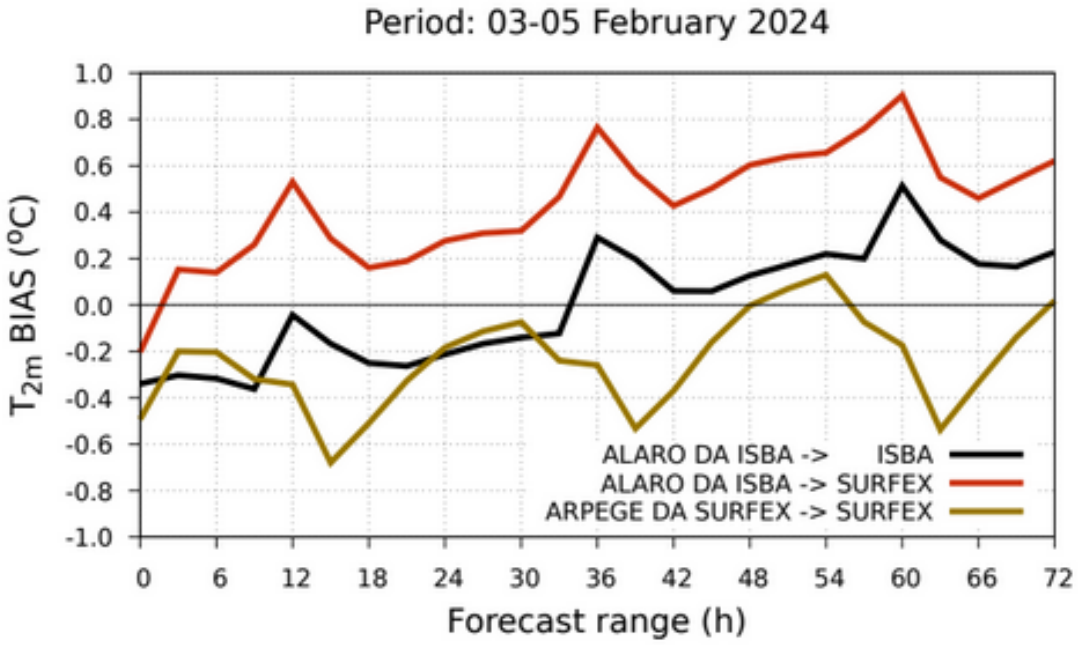
- A substantial work has been done for interfacing the radiation schemes of {the old IFS radiation scheme, ecRAD, and ACRANEB2} with CAMS aerosols (instead of TEGEN). Most of the work entered CY50T1 and is available for further testing and usage.
    - Reading of the CAMS aerosol fields (climatological and NRT) has been introduced in a user-optional way (see technical documentation).
    - The conversion of CAMS MMRs to aerosol optical properties, the vertical distribution (gamma) of 2D CAMS climatological aerosols and the externalization of the effective radius from ACRANEB2 have also been provided.
    - AROME runs with NRT-CAMS and ecRAD are being evaluated daily.



Courtesy by Salomé Antoine (MF)

Surface

- ALARO+SURFEX model configuration evaluation:
  - Positive impact of activating advanced SURFEX options: the orographic radiation processes (ORORAD) and the urban/TEB garden option where the garden vegetation is kept inside the urban area. Some positive impact has also been reached by tuning of the D95 snow model.
  - Different initialization strategies of surface prognostic variables have considerable impact on bias and standard deviation for near surface air temperature and humidity.

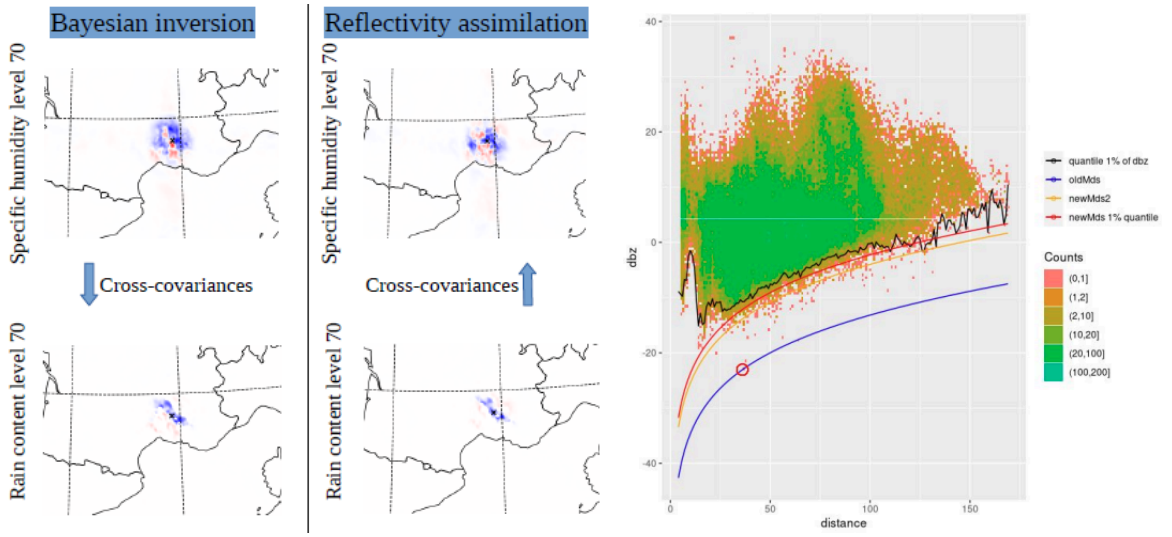


Comparison of ALARO + SURFEX simulations initialised from ALARO + ISBA DA or ARPEGE + SURFEX DA against the ALARO + ISBA reference: 2-m temperature bias. Courtesy CHMI

Claude reminded that SURFEX is still under validation for ALARO, but very good progress has been made and the first scientific evaluations were successful. Now it is possible to evaluate ALARO+SURFEX over longer test periods and strengthen the scientific validation.

(Upper-Air) DA

Enhancing the functionalities of radar data assimilation

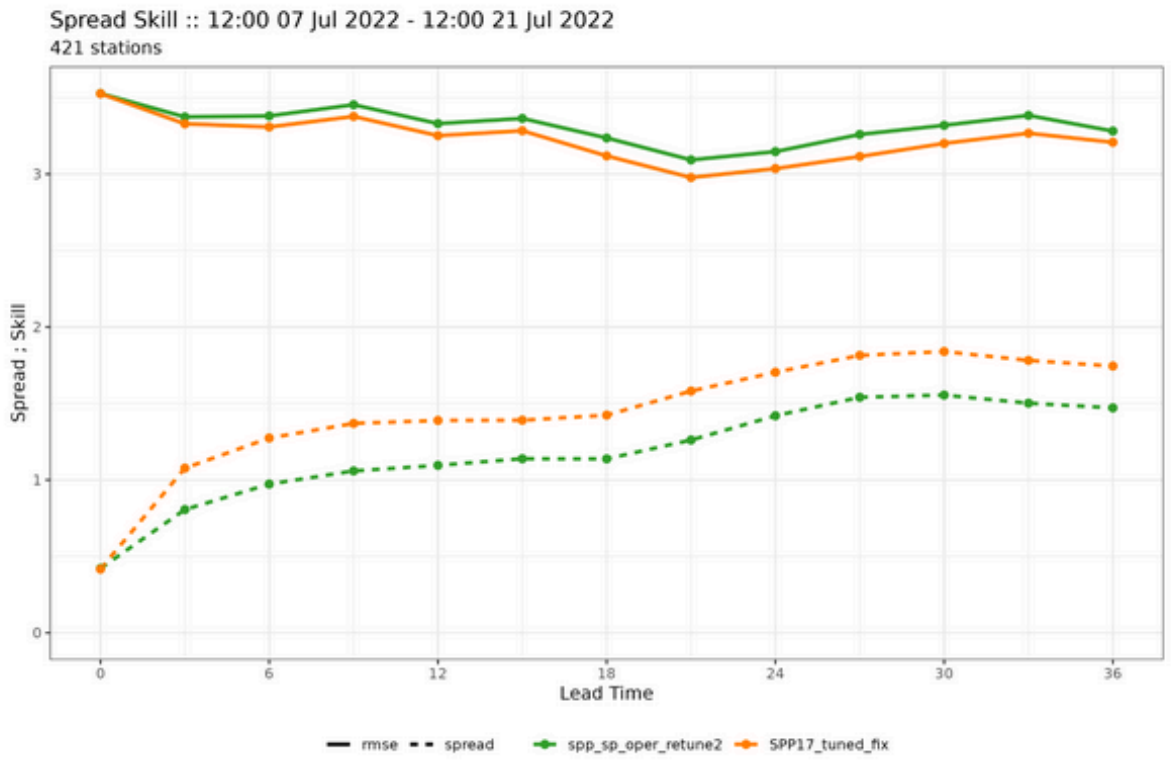


(left) Demonstration of coherence between increments in rain and specific humidity with Bayesian inversion (humidity assimilated) and direct reflectivity assimilation (Météo-France). Feedback is enabled through cross-covariances in EnVar. (right) Refinement of a method to assess minimum detection threshold in the radar data processing in CHMI.

EPS

Claude emphasized the importance of the transfer of knowledge regarding the URANIE tool. He recalled that some scientific visits between institutes were organized in the DAP for this purpose.

DAP: two experts and two newcomers could meet to work with URANIE - using this platform for optimizing the magnitude of SPP perturbations
Model perturbation strategies: RPP(MF/Arome), SPP (Harmonie-Arome)
Cascading ensemble method studied with a data driven EPS (FourCastNet-based)

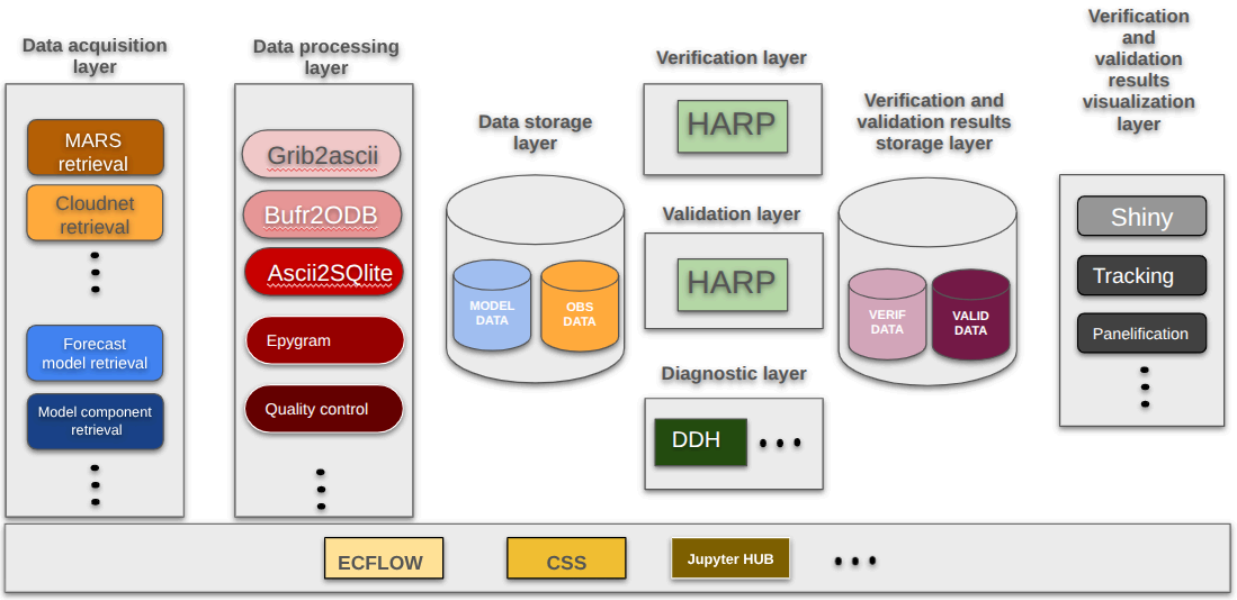


Spread (dashed) and RMSE (solid) of total cloud cover before (green) and after (orange) addition of 14 new SPP parameters in HarmonEPS. Courtesy by I.-L. Frogner (Met.no)

MQA

Claude reminded that in ACCORD, Meteorological Quality Assurance has now two main scientific and technical parts:
Validation and verification with “harp”, and the beginning of prototyping the MQA-infrastructure.

- “harp” is increasingly being used for verification of operational systems (UWC-West, MetCoOp, Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Türkiye)
- Exploiting the synergies with DA (use of obs and tools)
- Prototyping the MQA-infrastructure: WW in Helsinki in December



General workflow of the intended infrastructure, outlining from left to right its different layers for handling the acquisition, processing, and storage of input data, applications in verification/validation/ diagnostics, storage and display of results, all controlled by an orchestration layer (bottom) (figure by Daniel Santos, DMI & Sys-AL)

Code Refactoring and Adaptation (CRA, previously known as SPTR)

Regarding the code refactoring, Claude explained that the code is now very close to being fully tested on CPU/GPU machines (i.e. with porting the full time step of the model on the device).
Some work is still to be done by the team in Toulouse, but the core part is achieved.
It was a transversal effort across many projects, including DEODE but not only.

- ARPEGE time step fully ported to GPU
- ALARO gridpoint computations fully off-loadable on GPU
- AROME and HARMONIE-AROME: code refactoring in the physics ready

timestep

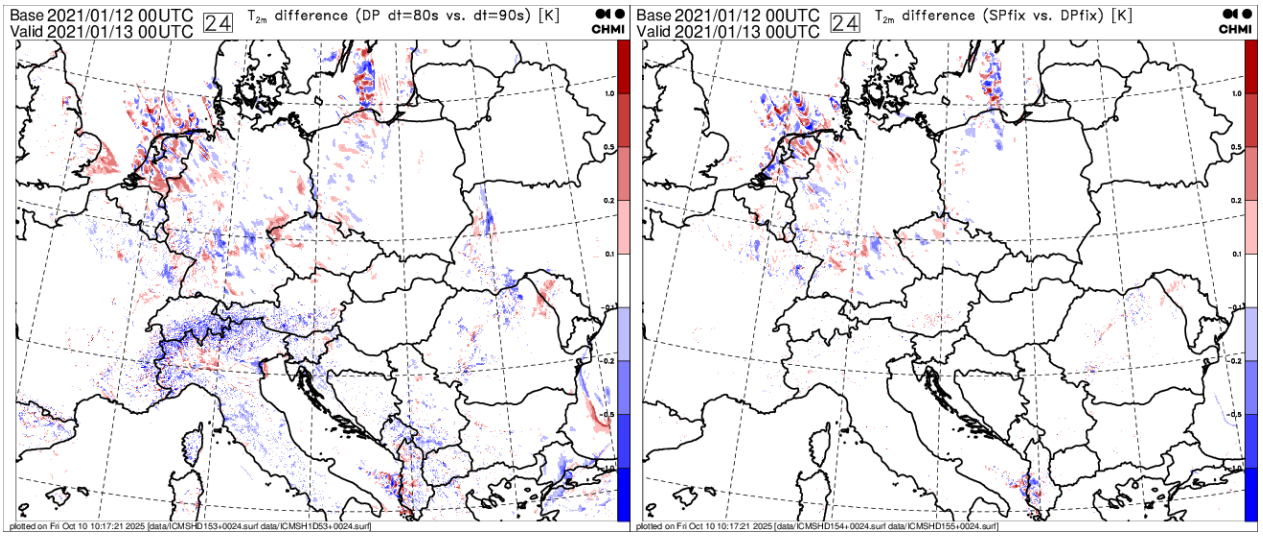
	Refactoring	Porting to NVIDIA	Porting to AMD
IO	Started	Not yet started	Not yet started
Inverse spectral transforms	(not necessary)	Done	Done
Diagnostic computations	Not yet started	Not yet started	Not yet started
Gridpoint dynamics	Done	Done	To be tested
Semi-Lagrangian	Done	Done	To be tested
Physics	Done for ALARO, AROME and HARMONIE-AROME	Done for ALARO	Partially tested for ALARO
Lateral boundary conditions	Done	Done	To be tested
Direct spectral transforms	(not necessary)	Done	Done
Helmholz solver	Done	Done	To be tested

Status of GPU porting of components of the ACCORD model. Highlighted cells were addressed in 2025. Courtesy by Daan Degrauwe (RMI & CRA AL)

System

Claude highlighted that lots of work has been made by the Czech and Slovakian teams on mixed precision for ALARO, by the HARMONIE-AROME tiger team to prepare their CSC-related code contribution for integration in the ACCORD common code, and by numerous contributors to elaborate the scripting roadmap.

- Evaluate refactored model code performance on vector-accelerated machines
- Maintain mixed-precision (MP) capability for model forecasts



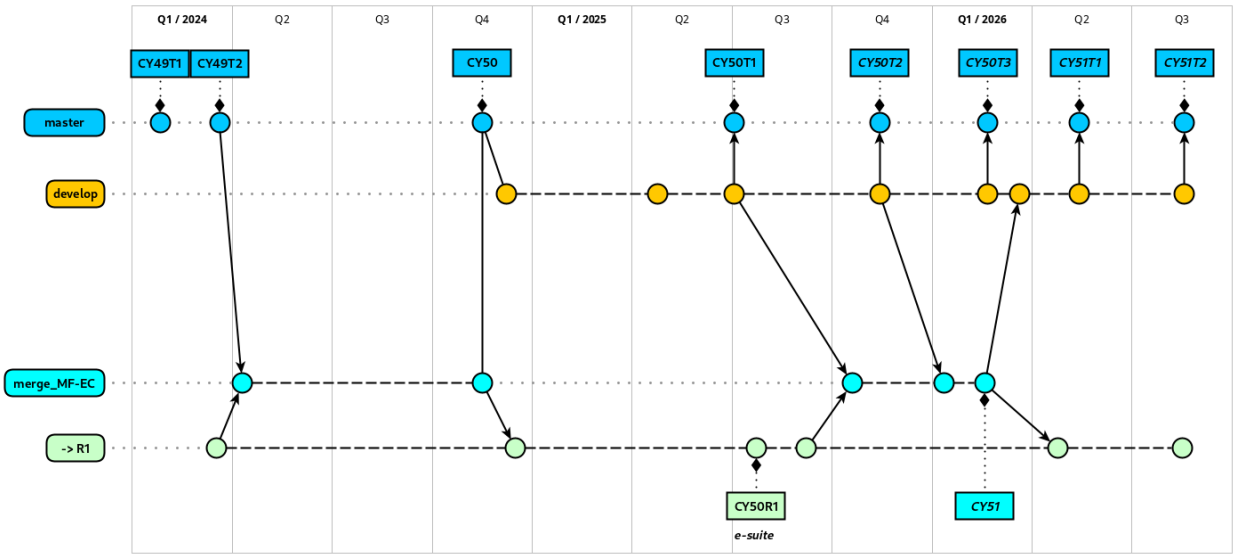
T2m diff.
left: dt=90s minus dt=80s
right: DP minus MP.
Courtesy by J. Masek and O. Spaniel (CHMI, SHMU)

- The HIRLAM “tiger team” approach has been continued to prepare the integration of missing components into the ACCORD common codes (harmonie46.h1.x => CY49T2h)
- Improvements on tools: DAVAÏ, CMAKE-build, Bundlisation
- Common scripting system roadmap approved by the A/A on 7/7/2025

Integration of code contributions, source code forge for ACCORD, tools for code handling

Claude drew the focus on the small DAVAI team. Those few people are meeting every year to move forward and it is very important to keep this team and support them.

- **davaï-contributors** (fourth) WW in week 3-7 Nov in Lisbon (this week!)
- CMAKE WW 7-9 October in Brussels

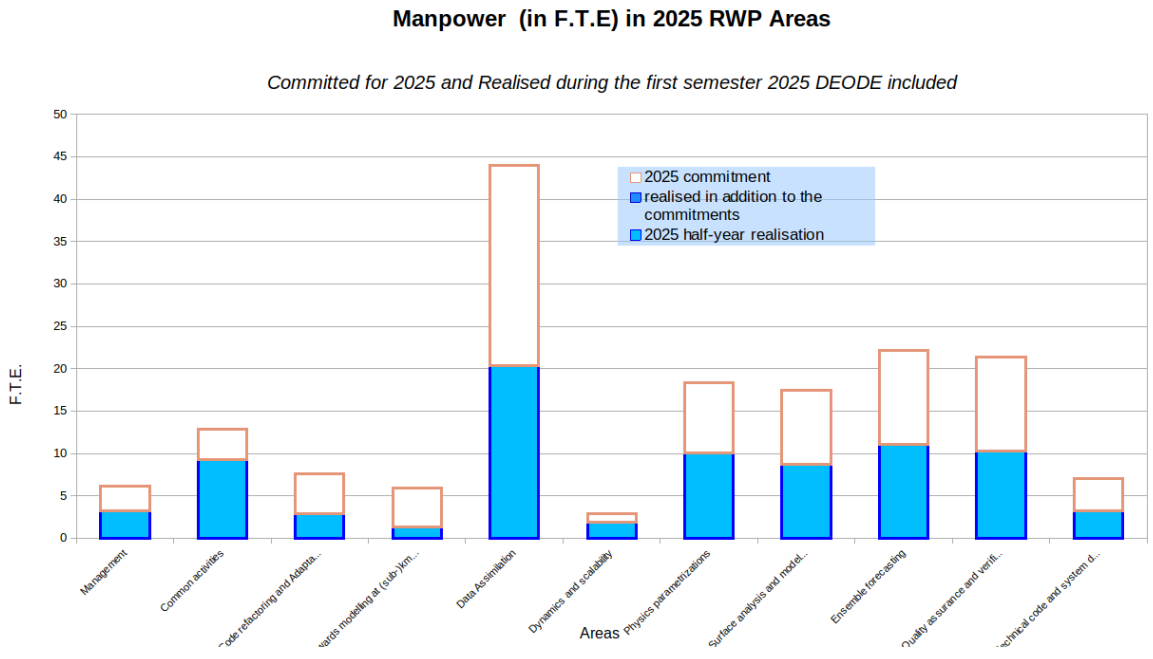


Courtesy by Alexandre Mary, Integration Leader (MF)

3.2. Realisation of the manpower commitments

Claude concluded the presentation of the realisation on the RWP2025 by showing the half-term realisation of the manpower commitments for 2025.

Good half-term realization w/r to commitments



As for the previous years, the reporting at half-year term illustrated by the column bars shows a good level of realization in all Areas.

Claude thanked the Hungarian team for hosting the last ASW meeting in Zalakaros (March 2025), and the Moroccan team that took on the task of organising the next ASW in Marrakesh (April 2026).

Saji opened the floor to comments.

User Cases
Chistophe *asked about the number of reported User Cases in the MQA Area (User Representatives).*
Carl *answered that 8 cases had been reported so far. Three of them have been dealt with by MG and advice for investigations were given to teams for the five others.*

ECMWF
Steve *added that there will be a workshop next year to develop the IFS strategy with interested parties including ACCORD members.*
Steve stated that the aim in the strategy wasn't for ECMWF to just define it, explain it to the partners and finally impose it. ECMWF on the contrary wants MF and ACCORD to play a full role in the strategy and that all groups partner in the design and implementation.
The purpose of the workshop would be:

- *to be more focussed on the description of the challenges*
- *to cover all aspects of the IFS/ARPEGE/LAM collaboration which include MF and ACCORD.*
- *to work together to elaborate agreed solutions with all interested parties*
- *details about this workshop will be shared once it is confirmed (it would be held end of 2026)*

Claude *took the action of keeping contact with ECMWF in order to see how to organize ACCORD contributions to the software strategy discussion.*

Claude *noted that it will be important to well inform (communicate to) the whole community about the planned steps, especially pruning of options in the IFS code => assess what pieces of code, check whether they are still used anywhere, maintained, known, ... and if not then it would be agreed to remove these options from the code.*

Saji*: Is it linked to the open source strategy that ECMWF is planning to implement ?*

Steve*: Indeed, we want to make our whole code management easier in the future, and be able to cope with the new challenges (multiple repos, the arrival of AI codes, open source version etc.)*

Documentation
Javier *asked how to improve the creation and sharing of documentation and how teams collaborate.*

Claude*: Jana would wish for more pro-activity. Indeed, it would be great to see things go faster, but on the other hand, we started from scratch and more or less from zero, so it is not so bad to be where we are so far with some concrete progress made.*

Patrick*: We do have documentation, but very spread.*

Eric*: We have lots indeed, but not commonly organized.*
Now we are clear on how to improve things. For instance regarding documented namelist files

across CSCs, all parameters should be in one namelist section, and described line by line. We need to force the people to do this way.

***Beni**: Now that we have the commitments on documentation for next year, are we happy about the figures ? Do we trigger enough interest ?*

***Patrick**: how do we organise the work between Jana and MG ? How to intensify the collaboration of the DO with the MG ?*
***Claude**: Agree. Jana explained the need to me as well. It will be part of our new MG organisation which we'll discuss in the beginning of 2026 for phase 2.*

Realisations vs commitments
***Andre**: how to interpret the differences between the realisations and commitments ?*

***Claude**: For those areas where the manpower commitments are high, the differences remain relatively small and very usually it is OK. I believe that we can be satisfied by the realisations in some areas like "Common activities". We should be more cautious about the small decrease in code refactoring and adaptation, and about the small manpower in dynamics.*

***François**: the manpower for the VHR modelling WP is a bit low ? Is this activity rather done in other themes ?*

***Claude**: Indeed, we encourage that the commitments are provided in the other WPs when the work is clearly related to a scientific thematic (turbulence, orography, micro-physics, etc.)*

***Javier**: This is a good report, but I missed information on what could be improved, where is progress lagging behind expectations or which are the difficulties that MG spotted ?*

***Sami**: for 2026, high priority topics have been identified. So next year it will perhaps be easier to follow progress and difficulties as they are well identified.*

***Martina**: Should we put more focus on activities listed as "code engineering, phasing and QA" (CEpQA) when discussing priorities ?*

***Patrick**: in last year's reporting we phrased some difficulties however they were not so much taken up by STAC. We should make progress on analyzing the difficulties and formulate solutions with the help of STAC.*

***Claude**: if we emphasise the issues, then we should indeed come up with possible solutions as well and that would be a higher collective responsibility for the MG and would require the active support of STAC (meaning more proactive work by STAC, and formulating recommendations directly to the MG, not just to the A/A).*

***Meto**: another indicator of progress and of difficulties could be by formulating deliverables.*

***Saji** thanked the STAC and MG people for their many comments and the discussion that started here. He pointed out that more exchanges on management in ACCORD, managing the plans and the resources during phase 2, will take place later during the STAC+MG when we will review the efficiency of our work practices during phase 1.*
As there were no more comments, he suggested checking the recommendations about the scientific reporting for the A/A.

STAC recommended the Assembly to note the progress in the different scientific areas and to approve the scientific reporting for 2025.

STAC thanked the MG and the staff for all their contributions and the excellent progress made.

4. Feedback phase 1 ACCORD discussion MG/STAC

Claude introduced the purpose of this discussion. During phase 1, ACCORD had to deal with limited resources and renewing staffing as well. It was very important to bring the teams from the various families closer together, build across-CSC thematic groups and make these people work together. It is good now to reflect on what we have achieved during phase 1 and how we have been working, and to identify what we can improve to help the next STAC and MG to bring things forward.

- How can we ensure that ACCORD continues to build on the achievements regarding the creation and validation of new code versions, the common scripting system, tools for a common development environment, validation and user feedback, documentation, and that momentum is kept and even increased ?
- How can we efficiently monitor the gaps of competence, communicate about them and trigger solutions ?
- In the context of limited resources, insufficient staffing of priority tasks in the work plans is a risk, leading to important goals being postponed from year to year. How can we improve the effective staffing of such tasks ?
- Additional resources can be obtained by external R&D funding. In this respect, how do STAC members and/or MG people evaluate the possibilities of using ACCORD as a seeding platform for Members to partner and answer R&D calls ?
    - Do hybrid ML/physics-based modelling approaches offer new possibilities here ?

Ways forward open to discussion include:
- To describe priority goals (...) for team managers to make their planning and commitments,
- What could be the relevant description and information useful for team managers ? Roadmap-style ?
- Can the liaison between MG and LTMs be further improved, to ensure that the priorities are well shared ?
- How do MG people feel about an early engagement with the LTMs, for instance in the form of a joint LTM/MG meeting at an appropriate time in the year ?
- How could STAC be further used to support the MG ?

Saji *noted that STAC+MG should assess together what worked well, and what did not. Where in the overall management of ACCORD should we make progress ?*
He explained that eventually the goal was to draw recommendations for the next STAC and for the next MG, and provide guidance on how to improve the efficiency while keeping what functions well.
Saji *opened the floor for an open discussion in which almost all members of the MG and of STAC did take the floor indeed.*

For the sake of conciseness, the minutes of this discussion are provided as a synthetic overview, followed by the drafted recommendations which were reviewed altogether on screen.

The main comments and suggestions raised in the discussion have been:

- highlighting the main achievements of the past year was appreciated
- setting priorities for the next year was very welcome (the corresponding sheet in the RWP2026 was appreciated)
- Could we even define deliverables ? milestones ?
- should the priorities be strongly linked with the “code engineering, phasing and quality assurance” items (aka CEpQA) ?
- shorten the list of activities in the yearly plan ? Conversely, it was noted that the teams expected that their local plans are presented in the RWP when they do contribute to the scope of ACCORD R&D
- setting priorities might have to come with making the ACCORD community more homogeneous (it is currently very heterogeneous)
- a way forward could perhaps be by ranking the tasks (ie priority tasks receive a higher ranking). To let LTMs analyze the priorities and discuss them in their teams, could there be a kind of two-step commitment process (which would perhaps allow to better align the commitments with the high ranked tasks) ?
- work organisation:
    - The role of working weeks was highlighted. WWs require a very good preparation beforehand, but then they are found to be a very efficient tool to make progress on the tasks. The number of WWs is necessarily limited, so perhaps organize them more transversal or as joint WWs (for instance two nearby topics in the same place/time)
    - The role of the DAP and of the various ACCORD-funded actions was highlighted (visits and WWs), and it was noted that the DAP support definitely helps to organize and foster the joint activities into directions defined by the MG
- How could STAC come in support of the MG for looking after additional resources, or external funding ? Some more coordinated efforts to look after external finding could be welcome
- specific relationship STAC/MG:
    - MG could formulate precise questions to STAC, ask specific feedback, raise specific issues
    - STAC should in that case be ready to provide some answer (ie have some time to work on the issues)
    - Should scientific reporting evolve in its structure ? => it could emphasise more the priorities and the questions set forth from MG to STAC (or those become a different document ?)
    - advertising more the scientific yearly report would be good
- specific relationship LTM/MG:
    - a higher level of interaction between MG and LTMs is desirable if not required, for MG to explain LTMs where the priorities are, to explain them where expertise or staffing is needed, for LTMs to exchange with MG and tighten the links in general
- management documents:
    - make the RWP and/or the scientific report evolve so that priorities are better highlighted ? so that the progress in priority tasks is easier to monitor ?
    - Regarding the RWP document, the relative importance of making an inventory versus highlighting the priorities was addressed but with no specific conclusion. The

RWP can be seen as a compromise document with both consortium and national objectives included

Hereafter follow the set of recommendations and directions to further investigate, in the aim of strengthening the overall organization of R&D in ACCORD during phase 2 (reviewed on the screen by all participants).

Reinforce the LTM-MG link *(more direct ? with what timing ? frequency ? efficiency ?)*
-> positive signal that we can spend time to liaise between elements of the structure
- 2 steps commitment process ? (also considered in the UWC context - ACCORD and UWC PMs could cross-check their agendas)

Relevance of the WW
-> additional effort on transversal topics. maybe combined (less travel), clear goals. Good preparation, and dedicated time for the participants. Strong link with priorities

MG-STAC link*:*
Joint STAC/MG discussion on the priorities for next RWP, STAC could suggest a ranking if needed?
Rethink the yearly-report ?
Describe highlights of achievements; report on progress made on the priority topics of the year; explain difficulties & points of concerns + propose an analysis of them (lack of expertise, technical, etc.)
Make a summary of the priorities for the next year
Could maybe STAC prepare a review of the reporting?
Be less exhaustive on results, rather be more focused and put a larger effort on risk analysis and mitigation.
To be then discussed with STAC.

Keep priorities
-> list and define them
-> improve their description in the planning
-> describe sub-tasks, staffing and expertise needs, timeline, risk analysis

Review the impact of these changes in 2026 (STAC).

Saji *thanked the participants for the lively, very proactive discussion that had taken place.*
Claude *added that the outcome of this STAC+MG discussion will be summarized for information at the upcoming ACCORD Assembly. The guidance summarised above shall be discussed next year with the new MG. Overall, it was consensually noted that the relevant changes could be implemented stepwise.*

5. Reviewing of recommendations from STAC (DAY1)

Note: *this part of the meeting was dedicated to review on the screen the draft recommendations on the items 3 (scientific report 2025) and 4 (STAC+MG feedback of phase 1 and guidance for phase 2). Specific comments made by participants have been taken up in the agreed recommendations (see previous items in these minutes).*

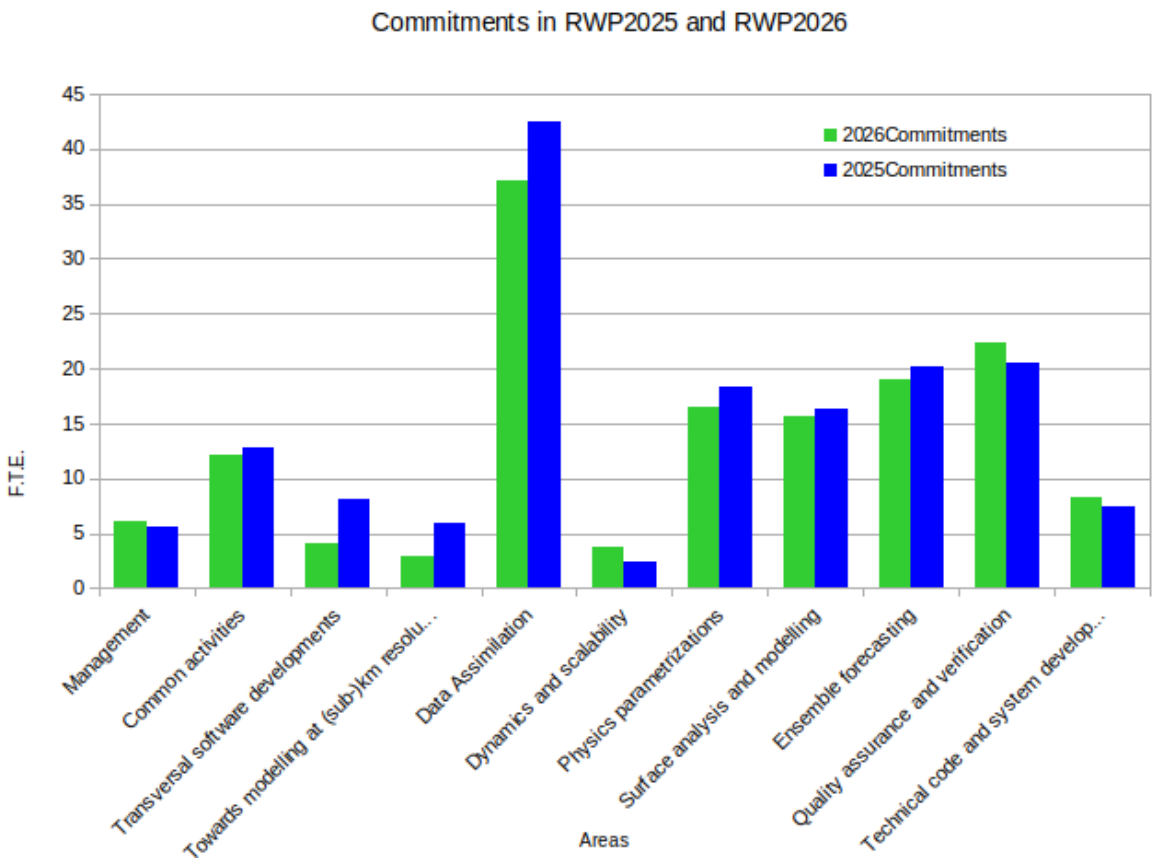
6. Review of proposal for 2026

6.1. manpower commitments

Claude presented the manpower commitments on the Rowling Work Plan 2026.

committed manpower by LTMs

- Committed manpower by Areas 2026 compared with 2025
- Decrease in CRA (critical?), in DA (not critical), slight increase in dynamics
- Stable manpower committed to COM (common activities) close to 2023 and 2025 figures
- Effect of DEODE transition from phase 2 to phase 3: unclear for the time being



Claude explained that the commitments for 2026 are overall relatively close to the commitments for 2025, though there is a decrease in the global figure from about 165 FTE (2025) to about 145 FTE (2026). This decrease is spread over several Areas and WPs which means that one has to go into the details of the nature of each WP and analyze what the impact of a given decrease could be.

For instance in Common Activities (COM), the manpower commitments are actually very close to 2023 and 2025, and only seem significantly decreased with respect to 2024. One might conclude that it is actually the 2024 manpower commitment which had been overestimated by a few teams. Regarding DA, there is a fair decrease which could be related to some interannual variability (people leaving teams or people arriving in teams, pending on personal choices and on project fundings). In the end, the most worrying decrease in commitments is likely the one in Code Refactoring and Adaptation (CRA), where we already knew that expertise and staffing was critical in the previous years. This is certainly a matter of attention for the next few years.

***Saji** opened the floor to comments.*

***Beni**: Regarding DA, part of the staff was reoriented to AI.*
This also could be the reason for less and less commitments and manpower on code adaptation.
Could this also hold for dynamics which already is an area that has a small figure ?

***François**: I share the concern on the lack of manpower on code evolution. With the arrival of AI, we will probably see a decrease in the overall manpower invested in physics-based modelling. One way of mitigation is by making these systems somehow simpler in terms of maintenance.*
ECMWF is willing to go in this direction, and they already are starting to plan things about the pruning of the IFS code. Such efforts however also will require resources.
Another aspect related to code evolution is the development of FVM/PMAP, the new dynamical core, which should become an option in the future common codes. ECMWF will continue to work on it despite the lack of resources and they're interested in collaborations.

***Claude**: On a mid term perspective, we indeed will have to well discuss and agree how we're going to shape the collaboration with ECMWF regarding the general coding evolution: finishing the CPU-GPU adaptation, organising some pruning of the IAL codes, interfacing with PMAP and possibly interfacing also with AI tools.*

***François** noted that the commitments on the VHR WP were low, and he asked whether this was because these efforts are rather spread across thematic WPs ?*

***Claude**: Yes, precisely. This enables every Area Leader to be proactive in the definition of the VHR tasks, and keep a natural contact with the scientists involved.*

***Martina**: also noted that the manpower on VHR and sub-km modelling can be spread over the other areas. However when there is a decrease in manpower, a reason could be that VHR is something that AI is expected to accomplish in some future.*
Furthermore DEODE also is "eating" some of the manpower.

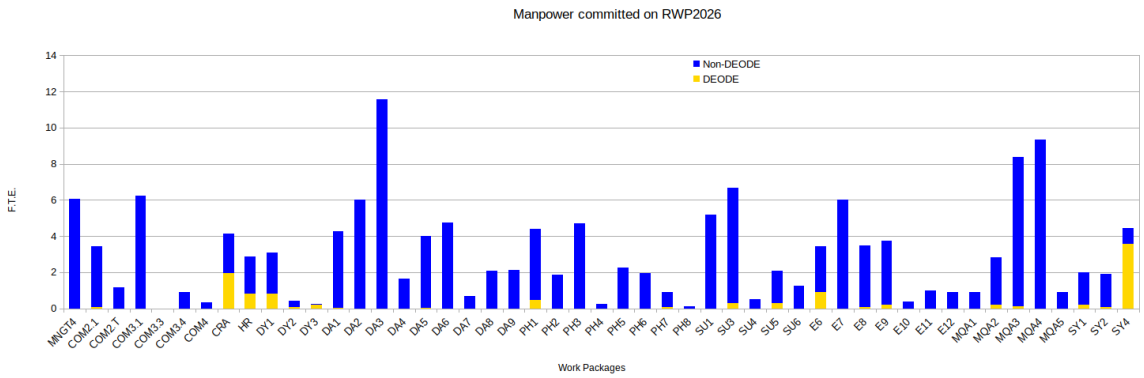
***Claude**: Agree. In a whole, there are several reasons for the overall decrease of manpower, which probably all come into play: local reorganisation in some institutes, redirecting some resources from physics-based to AI-based NWP, uncertainties regarding the content of phase 3 of DEODE making difficult the commitments for some teams.*

***François**: I also note that it is a good question to address to the STAC to reconsider the priorities on sub-km scale within ACCORD because of AI.*
Sub-km scale modelling with our physics-based models is in the ACCORD strategy, but this could be reassessed at some time.

committed manpower per WP and with DEODE estimates

- CRA (SPTR) remains partly staffed by DEODE, however this increase has two components: funding of current staff (allocated to some DEODE tasks) and recruitment
- HR-DY1-E6 are somewhat staffed by DEODE-funded manpower
- Scripting WP SY4 is strongly staffed by DEODE-funded manpower
- WPs in link with modernization of work practices: COM2.T, SY4, MQA5 as well as

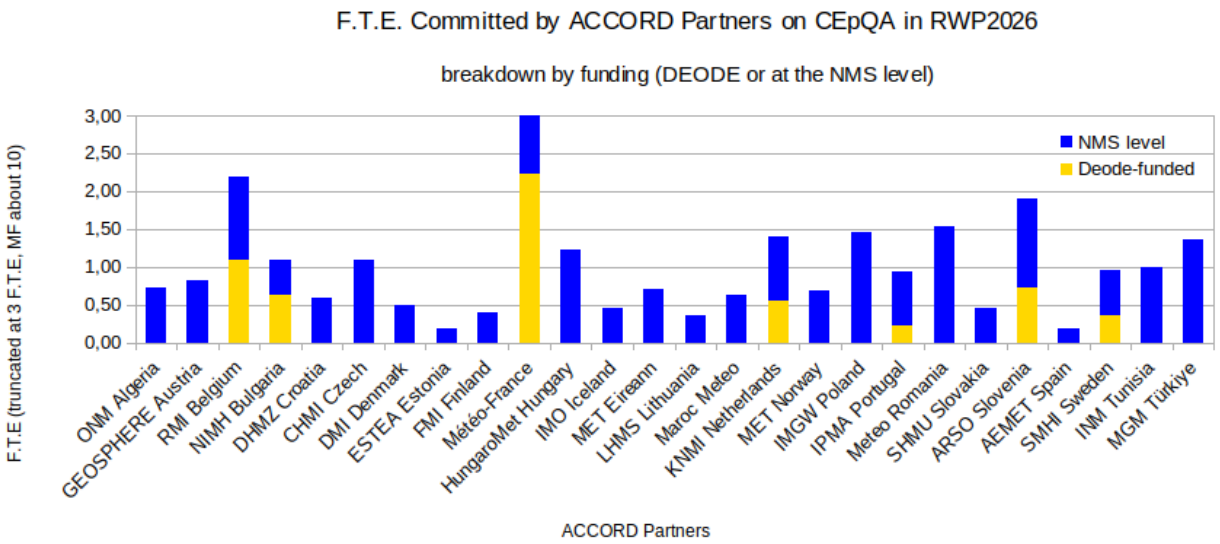
COM2.1, COM3.1, COM4, SY2



Claude did not comment much on the commitments per WP for the sake of time.
Common activities are well staffed except training which is often more difficult for teams to anticipate (we nevertheless know that several teams organize local training for their newcomers, and we try every year to propose some training for instance with dedicated technical visits in the DAP).

CEpQA (Code Engineering, phasing and Quality Assurance)

- Reminder: each partner (except those listed in Annexe III of MoU) should realize at least 1 FTE per year on CEpQA
- CEpQA: manpower from COM2.1, COM2.T, COM3.1, CRA/SPTR, MQA3, MQA4, MQA5, SY2, SY4



Christoph *pointed out that lots of NMHSs have committed less than 1 FTE of CepQA.*

Claude *reminded that each ACCORD Member is asked to appoint 1 FTE per year on code engineering, phasing and quality assurance activities (ie CEpQA). This being said, 3 NMHSs (for*

phase 1) and 4 NMHSs (for phase 2) only have to commit half of one FTE. Otherwise, the NMHSs that are below 1 FTE usually are not permanent over the years, and they try to reach the bottom value over time. During phase 1, a few NMHSs (about 3) have contacted the PM in order to announce that they would have difficulties reaching the 1 FTE of CEpQA or the 2 FTE of full membership commitment due to specific reasons. They confirmed that they were looking after appropriate solutions, and so far they managed to realign toward the MoU values.

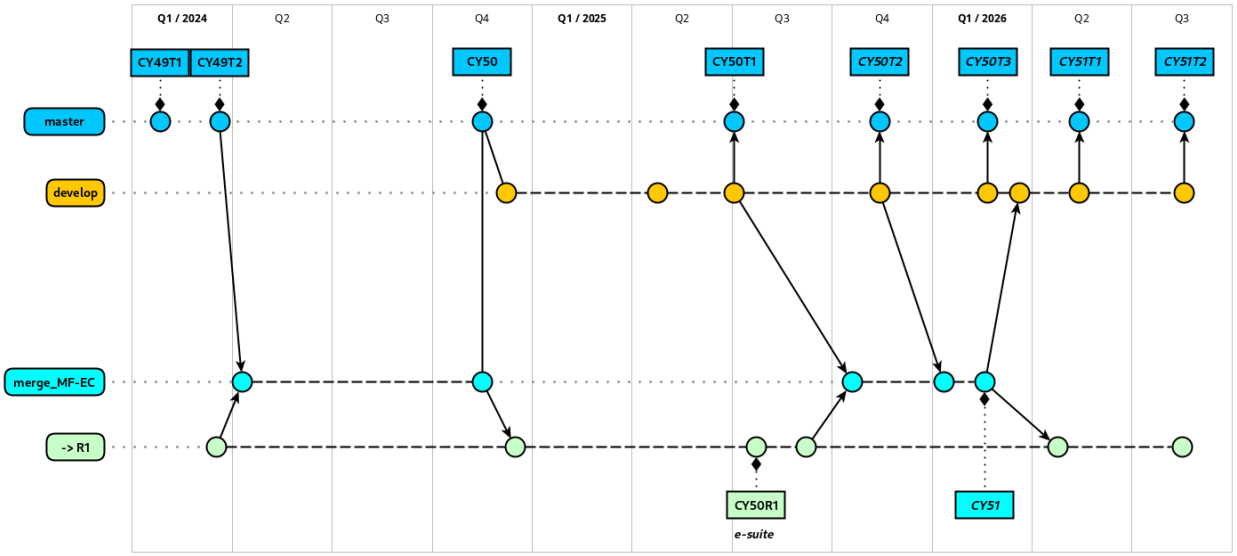
***Sami** added that some small countries do not achieve the 1 FTE on CEpQA, but they contribute to other important WPs.*

6.2. RWP2026 actions

For the RWP2026, Claude chose to only present the main changes, as all details were in the preparatory document 6. RWP2026.pdf

methods & codes

- modernization of working methods:
  - extend the use of the forge and of davaï across ACCORD
  - address “CI”; address “CD”
  - continue working on the common scripting system
- cycles: CY50T[1-3] including much code refactoring; CY51 joint IFS/Arpege/IAL



***Claude** explained the meaning of “CI” and “CD” in the context of ACCORD, and that both should definitely be considered as related but separate topics.*

***Patrick**: “CI” is very important. I’m afraid that linking this aspect with the context of the code cooperation with ECMWF might slow down the process for ACCORD.*

***Steve**: I’m not fully understanding why you might think that it could slow things down.*
We already are used to doing it in ECMWF, and we are now addressing this issue with MF and ACCORD.

***Claude**: A key aspect in terms of management is the expected timeline of implementation.*

***François**: we are all willing to keep going as fast as possible. For "CI", automatic testing is a key but do we have enough automatic tools for testing ? Is such testing shared enough with ECMWF ? We should put more resources on those automatic testings.*

***Jeanette**: tests have to be updated as well, and their scope should be large enough. It's then a huge job to update these tests. We would need more people developing and maintaining them.*

***François**: For "CI", when a modification is bit-reproducible then that contribution could be integrated in a fair continuous and "automatic" manner.*

***Martina**: asked about the status of CY50R1. **Steve** responded.*

Priorities per Area

Claude presented the priorities for 2026 listed per Area. It is the first time that MG proposes such a list. Claude then also presented those thematics which he considered as points of attention, because of critical mass of expertise or because of already too low or dwindling staffing.

- **CRA**: Code refactoring: focus on the "diagnostic part" of the forecast model (IO, DDH, FullPos). Develop testing and integration facilities.
- **DY**: Vertical finite elements (Non-hydrostatic). Insufficient manpower on new FVM task.
- **SY/COM**: The move toward Continuous Integration (CI).
- **COM**: The transfer of knowledge (DAVAÏ and other tools). Making scientific documentation of the code
- **SY**: The tasks for implementing the common scripting roadmap.
- **DA**: Local installation of OOPS. Processing MTG data locally (IRS etc.).
- **SU**: WW dedicated to how to progress with OOPS for surface data assimilation.
- **MQA**: Inter-comparison of data driven models with physics-based models. Building of the MQA-Infrastructure. Use the common scripting for using harp locally.
- **PH**: Proper evaluation/setups of existing parameterizations (shallow-convection, turbulence, microphysics and CAR). Process-oriented model validation across the WPs (link to MQA priority).
- **EPS**: Continue development and validation of stochastic parameter perturbations (SPP). Test the use of URANIE for selection and tuning of parameter perturbations.

More details are in the RWP2026 sheet: RWP2026 Priority per Area sheet

Points of attention regarding expertise and staffing

- Code management and system
  - Maintaining the davaï-developers team
  - Building a "scripting experts team"
  - Identifying a code co-integrator for SURFEX
- MQA-infrastructure: System support will be required
- Code refactoring and adaptation: risk of dwindling expertise and staffing
- Dynamics: more manpower would be needed to accelerate the testing of new options, and for assessing the potential benefits of FVM at VHR

***Claude** emphasized that in ACCORD, it would be great to manage to have a small team of scripting experts, just as the Davaï developers' team (which is organized around the Integration Leader),*

under the lead of the new System AL. 3-4 people would be enough.
For MQA, Claude mentioned that the MQA-infrastructure likely will require a small team of technical experts to take care of the system-related aspects (access to and retrieval of specialized observations, web-interface to tools, general management of the tools on the main platform namely on the ECMWF ATOS).
For dynamics, just an extra 0,5 FTE would allow more scientific tests of new options in order to strengthen the evaluation of the latest innovations in the ST-SISL[1] (i.e. the current dynamical core of the IAL models). A rather similar statement could be made regarding FVM (though a 1 FTE could be more valuable here given the need to gain more knowledge on this new dynamical core).

***Martina** explained that it would help to have a reference table of cycles and options, like which version of SURFEX can be used with which version of the code.*

STAC recommended the Assembly to approve the Rolling Work Plan for 2026 and welcomed the identification of priority tasks in it.

STAC recognized that some priority tasks (defined in the RWP table) are understaffed, and therefore recommended the Members to support their staffing with the required expertise with an emphasis on the points of attention below.

Points of attention:
- Code management and system
    - Maintaining the davaï-developers team
    - Accelerating continuous integration of the codes
    - Building a "scripting experts team"
    - Identifying a code co-integrator for SURFEX
- MQA-infrastructure: System support will be required
- Code refactoring and adaptation: risk of dwindling expertise and staffing
- Dynamics: more manpower would be needed to accelerate the testing of new options, and for assessing the potential benefits of FVM at VHR

7. Composition of STAC for phase 2

It was reminded that each family has its own process to nominate people.

Composition approved by the A/A on 7/7/2025:

ALADIN-MoU5:	Michiel Vanginderachter (Belgium),
	Yelis Cengiz (Türkiye),
	Rahma Ben Romdhane (Tunisia)
HIRLAM/UWC:	Ulrik Smith Korsholm (Denmark),
	Guðrun Nina Petersen (Iceland),
	Javier Calvo (Spain)
MF:	François Bouyssel (STAC Vice-Chair 2025),
	Christine Lac,
	Cécile Loo
RC-LACE:	Christoph Wittmann (Austria),
	Jure Cedilnik (Slovenia),

[1] Spectral Transform Semi Implicit Semi-Lagrangian

Gabriella Szépszó (Hungary)

In addition, the PM, the CSS and the ECMWF observer attend the STAC meetings.

Until the time of the meeting, the PM was exploring the names of the next chair and vice-chair of the new STAC, under the lead of the Chair and of the vice-Chair of the Assembly. Those names of the chair and of the vice-chair shall then be proposed for approval to the A/A on 1-2 December.

Saji suggested that François could take up the responsibility of chairing the STAC for the next 2 ½ years. Claude added that as outcome of preliminary discussions, Christoph had agreed to become vice-chair. François confirmed that he was willing to chair the STAC (he also will chair the ECMWF SAC for the next two years); he noted that he felt the level of responsibility in this role given that the next few years will correspond to the start of phase 2 of ACCORD. Christoph also confirmed that he was happy to back François as vice-chair. The STAC members expressed their full support to these proposals.

STAC expressed its full support to the proposals that François Bouyssel shall be proposed as new chair and Christoph Wittmann as new vice-chair of STAC. Their names will be proposed for nomination to the A/A on 1-2 December[2].

8. Reviewing of recommendations from STAC (on all items)

Reviewing the draft recommendations by STAC on the screen. No more comments. All the previous recommendations are agreed.

9. A.O.B.

The dates of the next STAC meetings are not settled yet, but there will be one online meeting in spring and another, in person during autumn.
The possibility to organize a joint STAC + MG meeting during 2026 will be discussed by the chair and vice-chair of STAC in the beginning of 2026.

10. Closing

Saji thanked everyone for the discussions and their engagement. He in particular thanked the MG from phase 1 for their important work and the progress that ACCORD had made during these last five years. He emphasized that the STAC feedback discussions about the strategy, especially regarding the common scripting system, had been very useful to prepare the next phase.

[2] Their nominations were confirmed during the A/A