



1st ACCORD PAC meeting
Tuesday 30 March 2021
14:00:17:00
visio-conference

Minutes

Participants

Flat-Rate ALADIN MoU5 Representatives	Daniel Gellens (Belgium), chair
	Mehmet Fatih Büyükkasabbaşı (Turkey)
	Subs.: Mohamed Mokhtari (Algeria)
RC-LACE-MoU5 Representatives	Florinela Georgescu (Romania), vice-chair
	Radmila Brozkova (Czech Republic)
HIRLAM-C Representatives	Jussi Kaurola (Finland)
	Jørn Kristiansen (Norway)
	Subs.: Ben Wichers Schreur (Netherlands)
Météo-France Representatives	Alain Joly
	Marc Pontaud
ACCORD PM	Claude Fischer
ACCORD CSS	Patricia Pottier
Invited ECMWF Observer	Peter Bauer
Invited STAC chair	Saji Varghese

1 Opening and introduction virtual tour de table

Daniel (PAC chair) opened the meeting and invited all participants to take the floor and present themselves. Patricia will prepare a photo gallery of the PAC members (see Annex II).

2 Adoption of the draft agenda

The agenda is unanimously adopted.

3 Information on DestinE

Peter Bauer introduced the Destination Earth initiative (DestinE) and then answered the questions and comments raised by PAC. Peter's intervention was very much appreciated by the PAC. The PM and the PAC chair thanked Peter for his involvement in this part of the PAC meeting. Peter left the meeting and the PAC continued in camera.

Claude and Saji (STAC chair) had been the ACCORD representatives at recent DestinE WG-LAM meetings. Claude summarised the information gathered from DestinE documentation and from these WG-LAM meetings and gave his own views about DestinE.

Both Peter and Claude's presentations are distributed to the PAC, together with these minutes. Information on DestinE can also be found on the EU website.

4 Questions from the ACCORD Assembly

Claude recalled the questions from the ACCORD Assembly to be addressed by PAC and presented a SWOT analysis of the potential benefits but also risks and drawbacks for ACCORD to prepare an offer for the forthcoming Call for Application for the on-demand LAM capability in DestinE.

PAC discussed the DestinE program with respect to strategy, visibility, relevance and technical opportunities and challenges for ACCORD.

4.1 What are the potential benefits of DestinE for ACCORD? What could be the risks or drawbacks?

PAC appreciated the SWOT analysis prepared by Claude and complemented it with risks raised by Alain and Radmila (see Annex I).

4.2 What is the potential impact of DestinE on the ACCORD strategy?

4.3 What are the consequences of DestinE on the ACCORD work plans?

4.4 How can ACCORD contribute? How can DestinE become relevant for Accord?

Jørn and Saji underlined that the ACCORD R&D strategy and the associated yearly Rolling Work Plan are very good foundations to build on and prepare a proposal for DestinE. DestinE has the potential to fast-forward some of the work required to reach the strategic goals. Although, as Claude pointed out, other aspects of DestinE are on the margins of the ACCORD R&D and RWP and their scientific/technical consequences should be further analysed. Collaborations with UWC and other operational entities and services should be exploited.

PAC recommended that a Working Group (Jørn, Saji, Alain, Radmila, Claude) prepares an outline paper of what ACCORD could propose to DestinE. Claude will coordinate its redaction.

This paper will be (email) discussed and approved by PAC.

The outline paper should be handed over to STAC (a STAC meeting is planned on the 4th of May) and to the Management Group (the MG could address this item during one of their already planned meetings or join the STAC meeting, t.b.d). PAC advised that STAC/MG continue the preparation of the scientific and technical content of the future ACCORD offer under the lead of the Programme Manager:

- (1) further analyse and strengthen the content of the outline note for the future ACCORD offer;
- (2) analyse the potential impacts on the ACCORD strategy: where can we find fast-track possibilities, what are the risks of contradiction or blocking points, where are new topics arising, etc.;
- (3) comment on the possible consequences of the offer on the RWP-2022.

The outline paper could also be a good basis to discuss with ECMWF (Peter Bauer) or with Partners outside ACCORD who might be interested in joining the ACCORD proposal to DestinE, e.g. DWD, and MeteoSwiss.

PAC proposed to the ACCORD PM to organise the next steps for the preparation for the bid. The PM agreed. PAC recognized indeed that the estimated timeline until submitting the proposal was extremely tight (September 2021).

As ACCORD has no legal entities, a partnership of volunteering Members should be created, with an appointed coordinator chosen among these NMSs (the coordinator contracts with ECMWF, then subcontracts with participating NMSs).

MF offered to later take the lead of an ACCORD-based proposal, and of its execution in case of success of the bidding offer, subject to agreement by its Direction General. This proposal was made in the understanding that other ACCORD Members are invited to make similar suggestions and the leadership will be discussed while building the bid proposal. PAC thanked MF for this offer.

5 PAC recommendations to the Assembly

PAC concluded that preparing an offer to this Call was of strategic importance to ACCORD and prepared **recommendations to the Assembly (see Annex I)**.

6 Date of the next PAC meeting

Upon request by the Assembly, the PAC members will agree on the date of their next meeting by email.

7 AOB

Alain kindly asked the PAC members to circulate any information on Horizon Europe draft calls they may have access to, as the ACCORD members will need to apply to some of these calls for funding of research actions.

8 Closing

Daniel thanked the participants for open and fruitful discussions and their consensual proposals. Daniel closed the meeting at 18:00.

Annex I: PAC recommendations formulated to the Assembly about DestinE

The final wordings of these recommendations were prepared by the PAC chair and the PM and approved by the PAC members by email exchanges.

In its meeting on Tuesday 30 March, the ACCORD PAC analysed the questions formulated by the Assembly about the Destination Earth (aka DestinE) program:

- What are the potential benefits of DestinE for ACCORD? What could be the risks or drawbacks?
- What is the potential impact of DestinE on the ACCORD strategy?
- What are the consequences of DestinE on the ACCORD work plans?
- How can ACCORD contribute? How can DestinE become relevant for Accord?

During the meeting, Peter Bauer (ECMWF) first introduced the DestinE initiative, and then answered the questions and comments raised by PAC.

PAC then discussed the DestinE program with respect to strategy, visibility, relevance and technical challenges for ACCORD. PAC concluded that preparing an offer to the forthcoming Call for Application for the on-demand Limited Area Model capability in DestinE is of strategic importance to ACCORD.

PAC recognized a number of potential benefits should the future ACCORD offer be successful, however PAC also identified potential drawbacks and risks. **The SWOT Table** below provides a summary of this analysis and answers in some way to the initial questions raised by the Assembly. In particular, it is clear that:

- by injecting funds in meteorological topics, EU's efforts can also support some of the strategical objectives of ACCORD. The major risk is to miss a chance and be relegated to a secondary role in the meteorological landscape
- a joint offer from ACCORD is needed to strengthen the position of the consortium
- DestinE could therefore boost the progress of the ACCORD strategy but may require some adaptation of the RWP.

PAC further discussed how ACCORD could prepare an offer, and if successful, how the DestinE-LAM effort should be organized within the consortium. The proposal by PAC is to form a partnership of volunteering Members and prepare a bid under the responsibility of one Member. PAC recommended that the ACCORD PM organizes the next steps of the preparation for the bid.

MF offered to later take the lead of an ACCORD-based proposal, and of its execution in case of success of the bidding offer, subject to agreement by its Direction General. This proposal was made in the understanding that other ACCORD Members are invited to make similar suggestions and the leadership will be discussed while building the bid proposal. PAC thanked MF for this offer.

PAC considered that opening the partnership to other NMSs, like DWD or MeteoSwiss, was to be considered should these NMSs be interested to join.

PAC recognized the very tight calendar for preparing the bid, with a final target probably in September 2021. Therefore, PAC recommended quick first steps for discussing the content of the ACCORD bid. For a start, the PM is asked to coordinate the preparation of a short outline note by a Working Group (Jørn, Saji, Alain, Radmila, Claude). In the note, the major guidelines for the scientific and technical content of the future ACCORD offer will be outlined. The outline paper will be handled over to STAC and to the Management Group. It could also be used by PM for discussing with other partners outside ACCORD, eg DWD, MeteoSwiss, as well as interested ACCORD Members. A cross analysis with the ACCORD Strategy could be done at STAC level, however PAC stressed the need to balance the ACCORD ambitions (accelerate specific work or engage quicker in new tasks) with realism and feasibility within the 2/2.5 year duration of phase 1 of DestinE.

SWOT Table


Strengths	?	Weaknesses
Funding: 12M€		Only phase 1 is funded
Visibility w/r to EU (know-how)		Only two years to deliver
	In TA: flexible content of LAM component	Our current codes are not ready for future HPC architectures
Opportunity	?	Risks
Additional (significant) staffing		Overload our major science and system experts
Access to breakthrough technology	Access to pre-exascale HPC ? (eg EuroHPC)	Promise too much
Stronger collaboration with ECMWF on modern concepts		Make proposal along wrong expectations
Access to flagged Horizon-Europe Calls (for research)		Drift away from consortium regular work plans & goals
		Be unable to cope with the big code changes once they are accelerated by the DestinE@ECMWF efforts

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


This photo gallery was prepared from screen prints mainly taken during the 1st PAC meeting.

Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)


Flat-Rate ALADIN MoU5 Members




Daniel Gellens
(Belgium)
PAC Chair




Fatih Büyükkasabaşı
(Turkey)

Subs.: Mohamed Mokhtari
(Algeria) 


HIRLAM-C Members




Jussi Kaurola
(Finland)




Jørn Kristiansen
(Norway)

Subs.: Ben Wichers Schreur
(Netherlands) 


Météo-France




Alain Joly
(France)




Philippe Bougeault
(France)

Subs.: Marc Pontaud
(France) 


RC-LACE-MoU5 Members




Florinela Georgescu
(Romania)
PAC vice Chair



Radmila Brozkova
(Czech Republic)

Subs.: Jure Jerman
(Slovenia) 

ACCORD Program Manager



Claude Fischer
(France)

¹ We introduce this French popular word, meaning “photo gallery with faces”