

ALADIN 8th PAC meeting

6 and 7 June 2011

Brussels



6.2_CSSI-LTM-ST

Subject: Minutes from the LTM and CSSI meeting held in Norrkoping on 7 April 2011.

Summary:

Action(s) required: Take Note

Minutes of the LTM-ST meeting
7 April 2011, 14:00-15:30, Norrköping, Sweden

Attendees:

Alica Bajic
Pierre Bénard (PB)
Andrey Bogatchev
Radmila Brozkova (RB)
Alex Deckmyn (AD)
Ryad El Khatib
Karam Essaouini
Claude Fischer (CF)
Marek Jerczyński
Dijana Klaric (DK)
Ersin Kúćúkkaraca
Jean-François Mahfouf
Jean Maziejewski
Maria Monteiro
Mirela Pietrisi
Patricia Pottier
Neva Pristov
Roger Randriamampianina
Piet Termonia (PT)
Alena Trojakova (for second part of the meeting : CSSI)
Filip Vana (FV) (for second part of the meeting : CSSI)
Jozef Vivoda
Yong Wang (YW)
Christoph Wittmann

1. Opening

PT expressed that he will very much appreciate a good interaction with the LTMs. This goes in both directions: if any LTM has proposals to improve the functioning: all inputs will be welcome!

2. Adoption of the agenda

Adopted

3. Brief reports from intermediate meetings (PAC, GA) and WGs and presentation of the timetable of the future meetings

The PAC and GA minutes have been sent to LTMs (all these documents are also available on the aladin webpage).

Main important points for LTMs to know from these meetings are :

- PAC : feedback on Brac ; discussion on the working group on convergence
- GA : SURFEX was also discussed in GA.

These 3 main topics (SURFEX, convergence WG, post-Brac strategy planning) have been first tackled

by PT during his first months as PM, with a special effort dedicated to the SURFEX action.

A working week will take place in Brussels mid-April. It aims at preparing a synthesis of the ALADIN (non-MF) countries needs to put SURFEX into operation. Besides this first step, a longer-term action will be to settle a SURFEX governance.

For RB, the main points are:

- the maintenance of SURFEX with its code evolution,
- optimization, and
- an absolute request for an operational ascending compatibility.

PT will make sure that this will be part of the document with the conclusions of the Brussels working week (everybody, attending this working week or not, is invited to send his/her contributions to the list of requirements for operational implementation of SURFEX). These conclusions will be input for PAC next June. RB insists on having rules for SURFEX software management and introducing NWP requirements into SURFEX governance. PT explains that it will be part of the role of the future SURFEX Steering Committee proposed by Philippe Bougeault and to be defined at next PAC. This Steering committee will consist in an ALADIN representative, an HIRLAM representative, a GMAP representative, a GMME representative, a meso-NH representative, and a representative from Meteo France's GMGEC. PT proposes that the ALADIN representative in this SURFEX Steering Committee will be chosen between SURFEX specialists and will enter the CSSI as SURFEX responsible (to ensure that ALADIN will speak with one voice on SURFEX topic).

DK proposes that LACE will also put SURFEX into priority : after the working week and the PAC meeting, a list of tasks will be settled and some could enter the 2012 LACE work plan and be considered as special priority for LACE.

4. Governance matters:

- composition of CSSI

PT explained that he will have to rely a lot on the expertise of the CSSI members in the future. So far he has been working (quite intensively) with Patricia for the flat rate planning and Claude for CSSI matters, but this will have to be extended, and he thanks Claude and Patricia for their great help since the beginning of the year. It is important that each member of CSSI feels well in his/her role and the composition of CSSI should be readdressed in the common months (as discussed during the last GA). He will first contact current CSSI members individually and may then make some proposition for the next GA in November.

- nomination of a representative in the SURFEX SC.

Discussed with point 3.

5. Execution of the work plan and manpower

- reporting of the 2011 work plan and kick off of the procedure for the 2012 work plan

As last year, an common ALADIN/HIRLAM workplan will be prepared.

PT proposes the following calendar : a first list of priority topics should be presented to PAC; the 2012

workplan will be prepared during summer and should be completed at EWGLAM.
All LTMs agree on it.

PT would like all LTMs to report on the progress of the 2011 workplan actions (deadline mi-May for a report to be presented at PAC meeting early June). A second report will be prepared for the GA with a deadline mid-October. The format of the reporting is to be addressed in order to avoid the PM and/or his support team to be overhauled with paperworks, it should be written in telegraph style. The idea is to have only general overview of the progress of the workplan, but most importantly, it should allow to spot critical issues. Once they are spotted the PM will contact the LTM(s) to go into the details. The reporting should be a help not an extra burden that starts its own life.

DK agrees with these two check points per year as they are necessary to prepare the next workplan : anything from 2011 workplan that is not finished by the end of the year is either put into 2012 workplan or abandoned.

DK raises a problem with numerous (HIRLAM) working weeks announced very late: they cannot enter the work plans and thus it is very difficult to fund the attendants.

CF proposes to put this point at the agenda of the HMG/CSSI wrap-up meeting : we cannot reply in terms of missions to all solicitations for working weeks or meetings, both in term of time and money.

- registration of participation

Not presented for lack of time : Patricia has developed a new interface (PhP, MySQL) for the LTMs to register the quarterly ALADIN manpower :

<http://www.cnrm.meteo.fr/aladin/meshtml/coordoper/particip.php> .She will explain this new tool to LMTs by webconf (see point 8).

6. SURFEX: local needs, execution of the COSP action and the SURFEX Steering Committee

Discussed with point 3.

7. maintenance issues, practical aspects phasing stays and exchange of information

CF gives the calendar of phasing and details the content of CY37T1.

CY37T1 will be completed by end of April. CY38 is planned for completion ideally end of October.

CY37T2 over June for SURFEX 7.

CY37T1 is a big cycle : more than 3500 changed routines ! Scientific contributions, surfex v6+ , alaro upgrade, HIRLAM contribution → very important preliminary coordination work for Filip, Lisa, Fabrice, Karim, Olivier.

CY37T2 main point is to implement SURFEX7. Given the difficulties and ambitions of CY37T1, a firm decision to do CY37T2 is kept on hold so far. CF stresses that, with the start of OOPS-related actions, the Fortran IFS is now starting to be overhauled more intensively.

RB raises the problem of the support and the maintenance of FA file format. She was told to ask the DSI in Météo-France/Toulouse but nobody ever answered her questions. Either the DSI people do their work on FA format, either they declare they cannot do it and we should make a decision: maybe abandon FA? Switch to grib? PT will address this question during his next visit in Toulouse and will put it on PAC agenda if necessary.

8. Miscellanea:

- SPFRCOUP

This special ECMWF project was a crucial help to offer ECMWF HPC access to those who are only cooperative members (I.e. Hu). CF explains that the special projects now are of limited duration (3 years) and that SPFRCOUP is supposed to finish end of 2011. PT asks if some countries need such a special project and if some full member wants to apply for another special project. At least, Croatia and Hungary are interested, thus AD will apply for a new special project (Belgium will be responsible member) with the help of Andras and YW.

- Webconferencing

Patricia has made tests with some LTMs. Météo-France will provide a license to organize such webconference. The chosen tool (elluminate) needs no special equipment or software on the PC and runs on linux/windows/MAC. Other partners may get other licences if necessary. It is agreed to use the same tool : <http://www.elluminate.com/> .

Patricia will make further tests (for instance, to present the new manpower registration interface).

- newsletter

This point was not discussed because of lack of time. A new format for the newsletter has been proposed since Newsletter 38. See <http://www.cnrm.meteo.fr/aladin/spip.php?rubrique10> for newsletter 38 and 39.

9. AOB

10. closing

CSSI members join the meeting and PT invites the LTMs to stay for the CSSI meeting if they wish.

Draft minutes of the CSSI meeting 7 April 2011, 15:30, Norrköping, Sweden

1. Opening

Skipped.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Skipped.

3. Maintenance issues, scientific and technical aspects, in particular OOPS, link with ECMWF

See LTM minutes.

4. WGs and actions:

- SURFEX

This was just discussed during LTM meeting.

- convergence actions:

RB summarizes the first meeting held the previous day : some plans to implement 3MT in the global model (code point of view) and how to process in common testing (1D-model test, ...)

- strategy on dynamics :

PB summarizes the discussions of the new post-Brac working group that met the previous day : FV, PB, Sander Tijm, Mariano Hortal(so called « group of 4 ») have produced a first document that has recently been extended to reach a compromise on 2 main actions : to do more scalability tests (with current code and machine) ; to propose some actions to prepare the code for future machine (in prospective mode, explore non-spectral and height-based coordinate formulation): This compromise more or less satisfies the group : the actions that are planned inside are quite realistic and may allow to have a plan. PT stressed there is a lack of skilled manpower to start an ambitious project on the dynamical core, but that it is important to know what we would do if we were offered man power at some point int the future. In particular we should have a plan in case some calls for research funding may materialize in the future, think for instance of FP8 (research calls on HPC)

- LAM EPS systems

We have different groups that develop their own system. The collaboration will move toward more calibration and common use of these different systems, see presentation of Geert Smet during the workshop. The joint development of an encompassing European LAM EPS is something that will most likely not become a reality. We have to accept that.

YW explains that LAEF products are operational for 2 years and available to others and asks for GLAMEPS status.

AD answers that GLAMEPS files are not yet archived on MARS.

PT considers that it makes sense to organize the same archiving for GLAMEPS as it exists for LAEF, in order to share to visualization/verification tools. He proposes that YW provides the list of variables from LAEF that are currently written into MARS and proposes that we will write the corresponding ones of GLAMEPS in MARS as well, once GLAMEPS has become a time-critical application at ECMWF. AD agreed. He proposes to readdress this at the HMG-CSSI meeting on Friday.

5. EUMETNET matters:

Cf Andras presentation during the workshop.

6. AOB

7. Closing