



**7th Joint ALADIN GA/ HIRLAM C
followed by
ACCORD kick-off Assembly
27 November 2020
09:00-13:30**



Minutes

1 Opening and welcome

Marianne (HIRLAM Council Chair) and Martin (ALADIN GA Chair) welcomed the participants (see Annex I) to this 7th joint meeting and thanked for their participation Andrew Brown (ECMWF HoR) and Marc Pontaud (Météo-France HoR).

2 Adoption of the draft agenda

The agenda was unanimously adopted.

3 Report from previous meetings

3.1 11th PAC-HAC meeting

Heiner (HAC chair) and Daniel (PAC chair) reported on the last joint meeting: PAC-HAC decided on the short list of names proposed by the HL-g and the voting procedure for the choice of the name of the ALH Consortium; PAC-HAC recommended a contribution of 11k€ per Member to the ALH Consortium budget for 2021; PAC-HAC recommended that the Directors encourage their staff to apply to the call for applications for the Areal Leaders and the CNA positions.

The minutes of this meeting are available on-line: [11th PAC-HAC meeting](#).

The GA-C had no further comments nor questions.

3.2 Meetings of the High Level group (HL-g)

Anne (Météo-France) reported on the 4 meetings of the HL-g: pooling their very fruitful work with the CWG (Convergence Working Group) great work, a consensual MoU could be proposed to Members' signature.

Klemen thanked the HL-g and the CWG for overcoming almost every issues.

Daniel, in the name for the CWG thanked the HL-g for their support and commented that setting up these two groups (HL-g and CWG) proved very useful. Daniel thanked all their members and specially Philippe for leading the CWG and Patricia for preparing everything in the background.

The GA-C echoed the thanks expressed to the HL-g and CWG.

3.3 Report on Rolling Work Plan 2020

Piet (ALADIN PM) presented first some statistics on the manpower commitments and realizations in the different Work Packages of the Rolling Work Plans since 2018. Then, together with Jeanette (HIRLAM PM) and Martina (LACE PM), they presented achievements on the different thematic Work Packages: new transversal WP to prepare for the future evolution of software infrastructures,

work to improve the existing dynamical core and some results in preparing for a future dynamical core; different approaches of solving the models biggest problem: fog; exploration of possibilities to replace a physics schema thanks to artificial intelligence or machine learning; large spectrum of DA activities (from DAsKIT program to help Members to settle DA, to important milestones on 4D-Var, to very positive real tests of 4D-EnVar); EPS cooperation; high-resolution models on demand; ... (see [details in the RWP2020 presentation](#)).

Marianne thanked the 3 PMs for their comprehensive report and the amazing progress and underlined the importance of exploring the possibilities of the use of machine learning.

4 Governance issues: convergence

4.1 Approval of the name of the new Consortium

Marianne thanked all teams who came up with proposals for the name, Members and Committees involved in the choice. According to the vote, it is proposed to name the new consortium **ACCORD** (**A** Consortium for **C**onvection-scale modelling **R**esearch and **D**evelopment). **The GA-C unanimously approved.** Marianne encouraged Members to use the name ACCORD as much as possible.

4.2 Status of MoU signatures

Volkan (Director of TSMS) explained that he had only managed to get the green light from their Ministry the previous day. Marianne acknowledged this good news and informed the GA-C that, unfortunately, AEMET was still not able to sign the MoU, not because AEMET was not willing to sign, but due to local formalities. Marianne added that AEMET remained a HIRLAM-C Member (HIRLAM-C has been extended for two years). Jesus (Director of AEMET) strongly stated the desire of AEMET to be a member of ACCORD and to participate to the tasks related to ACCORD (if only as an observer while AEMET deals with Spain's State Office that asks for additional information).

With AEMET not officially Member of ACCORD, the GA-C was proposed 3 (4) options to handle the case of AEMET with respect to the Area Leaders (+CNA) call for applications:

- option 1: no applicants from AEMET allowed until signature,
- option 2: applications from AEMET can postulate but the signature of MoU by AEMET is required by 1st Feb 2021 (as last possible date) otherwise AEMET candidates are not eligible,
- option 3: AEMET candidates are welcome to apply to the AL positions as members of HIRLAM,
- (option 4: the starting of ACCORD is delayed, waiting for AEMET signature).

The option 4 was not even considered, as not in the interest of ACCORD. The option 3 was preferred as AEMET is a well-know reliable partner. Daniel suggested to offer an official support to AEMET from the Chair of ACCORD, in order to help them get the agreement of the State Office. **The GA-C unanimously agreed to welcome AEMET applicants to the AL and CNA calls and that the ACCORD Chair would contact the Spain State Office if it might help AEMET to speed up the signature process.**

4.3 Review of the declaration and the press release

The GA-C reviewed the proposed [declaration](#) and [press release](#) and agreed on the final texts. The GA-C agreed to release these texts on Monday 30 November 2020.

5 Closing

Martin thanked Marianne for co-sharing of the joint meetings since 2016 that, with the support from the HIRLAM Council and the ALADIN Assembly, proved very successful. Marianne closed the last ALADIN GA – HIRLAM C joint meeting at 10:45.

ACCORD kick-off Assembly

1 Opening of ACCORD kick-off Assembly

Marianne opened the ACCORD kick-off Assembly at 11:00 and announced that, as the video-format of this meeting did not allow for a signatures ceremony, Météo-France has prepared a small video to celebrate the birth of ACCORD: [the video-gift was presented to ACCORD Assembly](#). Anne confirmed that Members can use this video for their communication (a new version will be distributed, with the name ACCORD).

2 Governance issues

2.1 Election of the Assembly chair and vice-chair

Anne took the floor to thank Marianne and Martin for their marathon work in the convergence process. The convergence being not totally finished, Anne underlined the necessity to ensure the continuity and proposed **Marianne as chair of ACCORD Assembly and Martin as vice-chair. The Assembly unanimously approved.** Marianne and Martin thanked Anne and the Assembly for their trust.

2.2 Nomination of STAC and PAC representatives and chair persons

According to the ACCORD MoU, STAC and PAC members must be nominated by the four subgroups of the Consortium (HIRLAM, LACE, Flat-rate ALADIN Members and Météo-France).

The four subgroups had proposed their STAC representatives:

- flat-rate ALADIN MoU5 Members: Rafiq Hamdi (Belgium), Ilian Gospodinov (Bulgaria), Vanda Costa (Portugal),
- RC-LACE-MoU5 Members: Yong Wang (Austria), Kristian Horvath (Croatia), Simona Tascu (Romania),
- HIRLAM-C Members: Xiaohua Yang (Denmark), Sami Niemelä (Finland), **Saji Varghese (Ireland) as STAC chair**,
- Météo-France: Alain Joly, **Christine Lac as STAC vice-chair** and the person who will replace Claude Fischer as head of GMAP/COOPERation team.

ACCORD Assembly unanimously approved the STAC Members and the Chairs.

The four subgroups had proposed their PAC representatives:

- flat-rate ALADIN MoU5 Members: **Daniel Gellens (Belgium) as chair**, Mehmet Fatih Büyükkasabası, and Mohamed Mokhtari (Algeria) as substitute,
- RC-LACE-MoU5 Members: **Florinela Georgescu (Romania) as vice chair**, Radmila Brožkova (Czech Republic), and Jure Jerman (Slovenia) as substitute,

- HIRLAM-C Members: Jussi Kaurola (Finland), Jørn Kristiansen (MET Norway), and Ben Wichers Schreur (Netherlands) as substitute,
- Météo-France: Alain Joly, Philippe Bougeault and Marc Pontaud as substitute.

The ACCORD Assembly unanimously approved the PAC Members and the Chairs.

2.3 Nomination of Local Team Managers by Members

The ACCORD Assembly nominated the Local Teams Managers as proposed by the Members:

- ALGERIA: Mohamed Mokhtari , AUSTRIA: Christoph Wittmann, BELGIUM: Alex Deckmyn, BULGARIA: Boryana Tsenova, CROATIA: Antonio Stanešić, CZECH REP: Radmila Brožková, DENMARK: Bent Hansen Sass (then Rune Carbuhn Andersen), ESTONIA: Mr Ivar Ansper, FINLAND: Carl Fortelius, FRANCE: GMAP/COOPE/D, HUNGARY: Gabriella Szépszó, ICELAND: Halldór Björnsson, IRELAND: Saji Varghese (Eoin Whelan as reserve), LITHUANIA: Martynas Kazlauskas, MOROCCO: Siham Sbii, NETHERLANDS: Jan Barkmeijer (Wim de Rooy as reserve), NORWAY: Jørn Kristiansen, POLAND: Bogdan Bochenek, PORTUGAL: Maria Monteiro, ROMANIA: Simona Tascu, SLOVAKIA: Jozef Vivoda, SLOVENIA: Neva Pristov, SPAIN: Javier Calvo, SWEDEN: Heiner Körnich, TUNISIA: Haythem Belghrissi, TURKEY: Yelis Cengiz.

2.4 Roadmap & progress on Management recruitment

Claude (ACCORD PM, from 1st January 2021) recalled the management recruitment process, the Management Group (MG) positions already agreed on and the roadmap for the selection of the other MG positions.

The Assembly officially appointed Claude FISCHER from Météo-France as Programme Manager of the ACCORD Consortium.

The Assembly officially appointed Jeanette ONVLEE from KNMI as HARMONIE-AROME CSC leader, Martina TUDOR from DHMZ as ALARO CSC leader and Eric BAZILE from Météo-France as AROME CSC leader.

The Assembly approved [the procedure and the roadmap for the selection of the MG positions](#), as proposed by the ACCORD PM.

Claude thanked the Assembly for trusting him as the PM of ACCORD.

Martin encouraged all Members to support their experts to apply to Area Leader and CNA positions and thanked Piet for the whole work he has done. Marianne also thanked Piet for his role as liaison between ALADIN and the HIRLAM Council.

2.5 Approval of financial procedures and 2021 budget

Claude explained that Météo-France offers to manage the ACCORD budget via a dedicated specific account (ACCORD 3rd party account) according to the following procedure:

- At the beginning of each year, Météo-France issues bills to collect the membership fees (amount decided by the Assembly);
- the PM and the Consortium Scientific Secretary (CSS) finalize the costed Detailed Action Plan (DAP) based on the RWP and the partitioned budget (partitioning among the possible expenses, MoU items 121-127) adopted by the Assembly, including proposals by the AL and LTM, and in agreement with the full MG;
- As soon as the ACCORD 3rd party account has been provisioned, Météo-France starts payments to Members according to the DAP (reimbursements of the DAP actions, on a

- compensatory basis);
- Should a Member not be able to complete a given task for which it has received a payment, this is resolved by a budget adjustment on the following year (to avoid too many financial transfers).

Claude presented the compensation rates that will be used for reimbursement to the Members of the actions in the DAP.

The Assembly agreed to the procedure proposed by Météo-France, including the compensation rates.

The Directors of HIRLAM Members confirmed KNMI to realize all financial actions on behalf of the HIRLAM countries, i.e. KNMI will pay to ACCORD 3rd party account the Membership fees of HIRLAM Members and will receive from ACCORD 3rd party account the redistributed money for the HIRLAM Members (this decision is valid for the HIRLAM Members also Members of ACCORD, thus on 27 November 2020 for the NMSs of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden; the NMS of Spain, Member of HIRLAM but still not of ACCORD, also approved to enter this mechanism as soon as they can sign the ACCORD MoU).

The Directors of RC-LACE Members confirmed ZAMG to realize all financial actions on behalf of the RC-LACE countries, i.e. ZAMG will pay to ACCORD 3rd party account the Membership fees of RC-LACE Members and will receive from ACCORD 3rd party account the redistributed money for the RC-LACE Members (this decision is valid for all RC-LACE Members: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia).

Bilateral agreements will be signed between KNMI, ZAMG and the NMSs of Algeria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia and Turkey.

Marianne thanked Météo-France for offering this mechanism and thanked KNMI, ZAMG and Météo-France for their extra workload generated by this mechanism.

For 2021, following PAC-HAC recommendations, Claude proposed a membership at 11k€ and a partitioning of the expenses (80k€ as compensation for PM position, travels for PM, MG members, LTMs, STAC and PAC: 115k€; Scientific visits including working week/days: 77k€; Organization costs for the annual ASW and of WW/WD: 14k€). The figures assume that 26 members contribute to the ACCORD budget in 2021.

As the MG is not fully nominated, and in order not to wait until spring for initiating some early practical programming steps, the PM and the CSS will first discuss with the 3 CSC leaders about a procedure to prepare draft proposals for the DAP (missions, scientific visits and working weeks) to be then discussed and agreed with the MG upon their nomination. The responsibility of the DAP decisions is on the PM but it will be discussed with the full MG. The full DAP (list of actions) and its realization will be presented at each end of the year Assembly.

The Assembly agreed on the 2021 membership (11k€) and on the partitioning of the expenses as proposed by the ACCORD PM.

3 Plans

3.1 Approval of the 2021 Rolling Work Plan

Marianne invited the ACCORD PM to present the RWP2021. Claude explained that although the general structure was kept from RWP2020, the content had been significantly adapted to strengthen the work on mid-term specific objectives while not sacrificing steady progress in the long term

goals described in the Strategy 2021-2025. Claude gave headlines of the RWP2021, such as adapting the codes to new HPC architectures, new options for/in dynamical core (while continuing to improve the existing one), developments on upper-air DA (OOPS, EnVar, support for observations), surface (SURFEX in all CSCs, assimilation, coupling), physics (including increased interoperability across physics, 3D effects, use of Machine Learning approaches), EPS (new transversal WPs), extended Meteorological Quality Assurance (general verification of model performances and alleviation of model weaknesses), new WP for System (exploration of solutions and tools for converging to a more common working environment), towards sub-km modelling. The Management and common activities WPs have also been renewed with a new WP for the ACCORD management, the common WPs have been updated (cycles, collaboration on porting the codes to Members, training) and new WPs added (design for modernized working environment, All Staff Workshop and EWGLAM meetings).

The Assembly had no comment and approved [the RWP2021](#). Marianne thanked Claude and wished good success to the PM, MG and teams with implementation of this RWP.

3.2 Progress and plans at Météo-France

Marc Pontaud, Météo-France Director of Research and Higher Education [presented the last and next improvements of ARPEGE](#) for the Météo-France global model operational and experimental suites and stressed the synergy with the ECMWF global modelling plans. He highlighted the main lines of the new Météo-France Scientific Strategy 2020-2030: general ensemble approach, kilometric "Earth sytem", hectometric model for high stakes sites, AI for big data, post-processing and code acceleration.

On behalf of Météo-France, Marc Pontaud expressed his great satisfaction at the creation of the ACCORD consortium. It will be the crucible within which, together with ECMWF and in conjunction with other European partners, we will be able to coordinate our efforts to prepare our future codes, portable on different HPC architectures and enabling very high resolution.

3.3 Progress and plans at ECMWF

Andy Brown, Director of Research at ECMWF, [summarized ECMWF plans](#), with particular focus on the areas of common interest between ECMWF and the ACCORD consortium. The examples shown included joint interests in facilitating smooth development of complex cycles, OOPS, shared interests in physics, adaptation to future HPC (e.g. ATLAS and dynamical core developments) and evolutions in code licensing. ECMWF believes that the collaboration is already strong, but expressed a view that the coming together of ALADIN, HIRLAM and LACE offer the opportunity to make it still stronger, for the benefit of both ECMWF and ACCORD.

Marianne thanked Marc and Andy and confirmed that, among the ideas behind the ALH merge, was the necessity to prepare for running the LAM codes on future computers, in close collaboration with developments on global models by ECMWF and Météo-France.

4 Date and place of the next Assembly meetings

Marianne proposed to hold the 1st ACCORD Assembly in March, keeping the virtual format. A second meeting will take place in the autumn.

5 A.O.B

The Assembly agreed to adopt the minutes of their meetings by email. Patricia will distribute the draft minutes to Members, for approbation **within 1 month**.

6 Closing

Marianne thanked Claude and Patricia for preparation of this kick-off meeting. She also thanked and congratulated the 3 CSC leaders, all representatives at STAC and PAC and their chairs, and the LTMs, for their nomination and involvement (see the ACCORD organisational chart in Annex II). Marianne wished a good start to ACCORD and encouraged all teams to consider ACCORD as their consortium now.

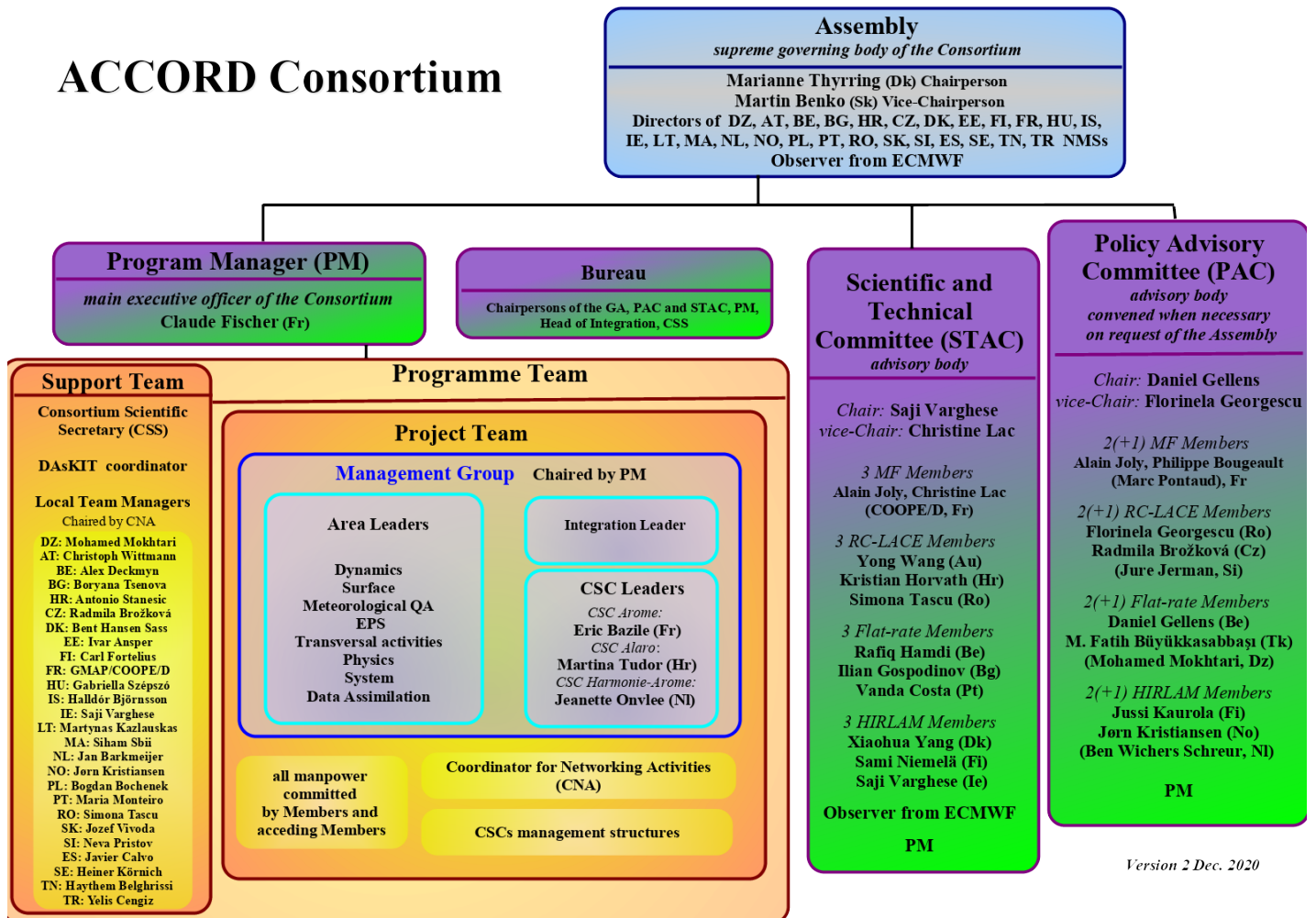
Annex I: Participants



COUNTRY	NMS	Participants
ALGERIA	ONM	Brahim IHADADENE, Salah SAHABI, Mohamed MOKHTARI
AUSTRIA	ZAMG	Yong WANG, Christoph WITTMANN
BELGIUM	RMI	Daniel GELLENS (PAC chair)
BULGARIA	NIMH	Andrey BOGATCHEV, Ilian GOSPODINOV, Boryana TSENOVA
CROATIA	DHMZ	Branka IVANCAN-PICEK
CZECH REP	CHMI	Libor CERNIKOVSKY, Radmila BROZKOVA
DENMARK	DMI	Marianne THYRRING (C chair)
ESTONIA	EEA	Taimar ALA, Kai ROSIN
FINLAND	FMI	Jussi KAUROLA, Sami NIEMELA
FRANCE	Météo-France	Anne DEBAR, Philippe BOUGEAULT, Marc PONTAUD
HUNGARY	HMS	Mihaly SZUCS
ICELAND	VI	Arni SNORRASON
IRELAND	Met Eireann	Eoin MORAN, Saji VARGHESE, Sarah O'REILLY
LITHUANIA	LHMS	Donatas VALIUKAS
MOROCCO	DMN	Hassan HADDOUCH
NETHERLANDS	KNMI	Gerard van der STEENHOVEN
NORWAY	Met.no	Roar SKALIN, Jørn KRISTIANSEN
POLAND	IMGW	Jacek TRZOSOWSKI, Bogdan BOCHENEK
PORTUGAL	IPMA	Nuno LOPES, Miguel MIRANDA, Maria MONTEIRO
ROMANIA	NMA	Florinela GEORGESCU, Simona TASCU
SLOVAKIA	SHMU	Martin BENKO (GA chair)
SLOVENIA	EARS	Klemen BERGANT, Jure CEDILNIK
SPAIN	AEMET	Jesus MONTERO GARRIDO
SWEDEN	SMHI	Stefan NILSSON, Bodil AARHUS ANDRAE, Heiner KÖRNICH (HAC), Tilde VEJEN JESPERSEN
TUNISIA	INM	Hatem BACCOUR, Haythem BELGHRISSE, Rahma BENROMDHANE, Wafa KHALFAOUI
TURKEY	TSMS	Volkan Mutlu COŞKUN, Murat ALTINYOLLAR, Ersin KÜÇÜKKARACA, Yelis CENGİZ
ALADIN / PM		Piet TERMONIA
HIRLAM / PM		Jeanette ONVLEE
LACE / PM		Martina TUDOR
CSSI CHAIR		Claude FISCHER
ALADIN / ST	GA sec.	Patricia POTTIER
ECMWF obs.	ECMWF HoR	Andrew BROWN

Annex II: ACCORD organisational chart

ACCORD Consortium



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