

Minutes of the 11th ALADIN LTM meeting Friday 14 October 2011, 9:00-13:00, Tallinn

Participants :

Au (Yong Wang), Be (Alex Deckmyn), Hr (Alica Bajic), Cz (Radmila Brozkova), Fr (Claude Fischer), Hu (Roger Randriamampianina), Po (Marek Jerczynski), Pt (Vanda Costa), Ro (Simona Tascu), Si (Neva Pristov), Tk(Ersin Kucukkaraca),
ALADIN PM (Piet Termonia), LACE PM (Dijana Klaric), Support Team (Jean Maziejewski, Patricia Pottier), Jean-François Mahfouf

1. Opening and welcome

2. Adoption of the draft agenda

The proposed agenda is adopted with one added point about the next LTMs meeting.

3. Report and planned actions from previous meetings: PAC, LACE SC, Strategy meeting, SURFEX SC, SRNWP

Piet reports on the strategy meeting and its implication for next year work plan. He proposes to focus the discussion on five points.

OOPS :

- OOPS has two aspects: C++ and a great cleaning of the code
- Thus a training in two steps will be necessary : one week on C++ and another week on OOPS code.
- There is no urgency to train the whole staff (and the consortium has other priorities next year) but we have to identify a few people in the consortium (a core group) who will do the prototype analysis.
- Météo-France will organise a first C++ training (in French) for GMAP people and some French-speaking ALADIN colleagues in November 2011
- The LTMs propose that MF organises another C++ training course in English in 2012.

Piet asks if the teams will send collaborators to such a training course if organised by MF. The LTMs agree to identify such people in their institute and send them to such a training course.

Radmila raises the necessity to re-design **Open-MP** for our common DDH tool. Piet will analyse how much manpower this action would require. Claude underlines that we need one or two expert persons in the consortia, as HIRLAM **have**. Piet proposes **that LTMs** should look in their NMS for people who **know how to code** openMP parallelism, and hybrid MPI/openMP. Then, **the** training week could be organized.

DA Plans:

Piet explains that Roger agrees to get involved into this topic, with the aim to help more ALADIN partners to install DA in their system.

Roger presents the advantages of a good scripting system like the HARMONIE one (to do and maintain comprehensive namelists, default setups for 3D-var, set of observations, ...), which proved especially useful for newcomers.

Claude underlines the necessity to find a good balance between providing a full package and having a support team to maintain/develop this system. The bigger you want this package the bigger the support team should be.

Tomislav reports the problem of observation databases in OPLACE.

Jean-François recalls that the use of BUFR will get better. **Roger insists on people being aware of**

using BUFR (BATOR will work then) and Claude underlines the new project BUFR to ODB.

Yong announces that Austria will put some manpower on radar data. Roger thinks that the cooperation should start on implementing CONRAD. Tomislav explains that CONRAD is completed and with a minimum of work, it can be used with any local radar data.

Piet concludes that CONRAD can be considered as a sort of universal convertor to format data for ALADIN/AROME.

Roger explains the next actions for the coordination on CONRAD (next meeting in November) : how to do quality control ? Where to put quality control ? In CONRAD, in BATOR, in screening ? In case we have raw data from OPERA ?...

All LTMs agree to consider CONRAD as mandatory for every countries (in the future for those who don't assimilate radar data yet). **Roger (and Tomislav) will be the contact point(s).**

Dijana proposes that the next LACE DA working week in June 2012 will be more opened to all countries (less LACE oriented). Radar data assimilation will be part of the agenda. Her priority is getting good tool to use local radars. Piet warns that the more tools we have, the more maintenance is necessary.

Piet take notes that we all decide to use CONRAD.

SURFEX :

Piet reports on the SURFEX SC : the SC recognizes that **there is a user community**; HIRLAM proposes a forum; Eric Martin proposes to have an inquiry on the points raised during the SC.

Piet proposes to organise another SURFEX working week in Brussels in 2012 to perform some pre-phasing tests to prepare the code that will go into the next cycle. He asks LTMs to try to identify people who would be interested.

Radmila asks about which version of SURFEX is in 37T1 and when the export version will be distributed.

Jean-François answers that it will be SURFEX-V6+ (intermediate version between the official V6 and the future V7). Claude adds that the export version 37T1 will be available before the end of the year. *Claude takes this opportunity to thanks the good phaser team that worked on the difficult phasing for cycle 37T1 and asks LTMs who sent some phasers to thank them again once back at the office.*

Radmila asks how to prepare IC and LBC files for ALADIN/ALARO with SURFEX.

Jean-François explains that PREP+FULL-POS allows to go from the ARPEGE world (without SURFEX) to the SURFEX world (Aladin or Arome with Surfex). To go from SURFEX to SURFEX PREP, as a standalone facility, must be used. These options and constraints are valid for all partners, including MF & HIRLAM. There is nothing that prevents using ALADIN with SURFEX.

Radmila thinks that PREP is not efficient enough (mono-processor).

Jean-François answers that the question to optimize prep (make it MPI and OpenMP compatible) or to include it in full-pos/E927 is opened. The issue should be addressed.

Claude underlines there is limited manpower thus it is important to prioritize the list of tasks for the steering committee and answer the inquiry.

Piet asks LTMs if they will do something about this or if they decide to stay with ISBA.

Neva answers that the aim is to use SURFEX. Daan will work on it in Brussels and LACE will probably find somebody too.

Radmila says that LACE will organise some check-up of the SURFEX data over LACE domains (cf Rafiq work in Brussels).

Piet concludes that as everybody agrees to go ahead with SURFEX, he invites the LTMs to answer the inquiry and find people to work on SURFEX.

4. Coordination issues: next phasings, ACNA, CSSI composition, Task forces

- **Cycles, phasings, E-suite**

The cycle **CY37T1** has been declared on June 30, 2011. The major modifications are : various code cleanings in the spirit of OOPS; upgrade of the Alaro physics (TOUCANS, CA); option to remove the E-zone in GP computations (Harmonie); code for handling scatterometer obs; adaptation of configuration 901 to GRIB2.

The **CY38** is scheduled for October 2011. The first elements of IFS Fortran code cleaning in the OOPS spirit will enter this cycle. It is based on CY37R3.

The deadline for contributions to **CY38T1** are expected by February 2012 (cycle to be prepared over March/May => **LTM**s will receive the usual call for phasers). The expected contributions include : SURFEX official release V7.x & plug-ins in “mse” interface; E-zone treatment in gridpoint LAM model revisited & Boyd LBC coupling code (Belgian team); Dynamics and cleaning. This is only a preliminary, incomplete, list.

CY39: September/October 2012

At Météo-France, the “E-suite” started in January 2011 is operational since September, 20th 2011. The next E-suite will start in Nov/Dec 2011 and will be based on CY37T1. The start of this E-suite might be impacted by the status and schedule of VORTEX, which will also require manpower on the side of MF’s Operations. The switch to operations is expected in spring 2012.

- **ACNA**

The former ACNA position included some technical aspects besides coordination work. Piet proposes a redesign of the ACNA functions.

Roger agrees to act as an ACNA defined as a sort of “LTM boss” : his first coordination will be on the radar work.

Claude warns that the technical aspects for the operational oriented coordination should not be forgotten : testing of the cycles, changes in the coupling files, validation of Alaro versions of the model, ...

- **CSSI composition**

Piet presents the CSSI composition and reports about people who have announced that they will resign. As written in the MoU5, the CSSI members are proposed by the PM and the PAC chair and approved by the GA. The CSSI members are proposed according to their acknowledged scientific and/or technical expertise and recognition within the project.

Piet asks LTMs, as they know better their whole team, if they have some names to suggest to him for the vacant positions.

Radmila raises the question of the possibility for the LACE area leaders to enter the CSSI as responsible for topics related to the LACE domain. The usual practice was to forbid such collusion.

The proposal is not to do this for the 4 LACE area leaders and not systematically but to accept this possibility on case-by-case when the best possible available CSSI candidate is found to be also the LACE area leader on the same topic.

Nobody objects to Neva being both the CSSI member and the LACE area leader for physics. Neva will think about it.

- **Task forces**

The MoU4 offers the possibility to temporarily and jointly (ALADIN-HIRLAM) activate “task-forces” to address well identified, specific topics. A first one will be proposed on “verification”.

HIRLAM has done a lot in verification. ALADIN data base in Ljubljana is only in routine maintenance.

Neva explains that the database is not designed for new developments.

Neva proposes that the task force will first analyse what exists within ALADIN partners. Yong confirms that we all have some verification package for years. We should coordinate, with HIRLAM too. **LTM's should seek in their team for any possible candidate for this verification task force** (including the task force leader).

5. Man power for the Work plan 2012

This point was not discussed by lack of time. The content of the workplan will be finished next week (with some added contributions from Jean-François and Laura, Neva and Filip). Then, **the workplan 2012 will be sent to the LTM's to fill the manpower.**

6. Support team coordination matters

• Newsletters

The support team faces an increasing lack of contributions. We have other means to share informations (meetings, the aladin website, ...), thus the current content of the Newsletters might not be still relevant. We should collectively think about what we would like to put and to read in the Newsletters. Neva asks for a regular update of the operational summary in the Newsletters. **LTM's should send a description of their suite twice a year for the newsletters** : they could extract it from the information they write on their national poster that presented at the ALADIN workshop and at the EWGLAM meeting.

• Next Aladin General Assembly, Toulouse, November 15-16, 2011

The announcement was officially sent by Météo-France to the ALADIN GA participants by post mail. A copy of this invitation will be sent to all Directors with copy to the LTM's : they should make sure that their director receive it.

• 22nd ALADIN Workshop & HIRLAM ASM 2012

The workshop will take place in Morocco (exact venue to be confirmed) during the week 7-11 May 2011.

• Registration of manpower

A new tool is available since last spring. According to the request of the last GA, new guidelines have been prepared (no big changes but with clearer recommendation of reporting practices) and presented to PAC. The GA will be asked to approve them. The deadlines for registration are the same : **“the actions are registered with a maximum delay of 1 month. No timely reporting means no accounted work.”** Some LTM's (or the deputized-LTM in charge of this registration) are uncomfortable with this registration as they have no means to push people in their NMS to send them contributions. This explains (in some cases) that some partners register systematically with more the 3-month delay ... **A local solution/organisation should be found to register in time.**

7. A.O.B

• Tentative schedule for some possible ALADIN (+LACE/HIRLAM) events in 2012

This is a very preliminary list (some knowledge about the next years events is necessary to prepare the 2012 LACE and flat-rate budgets).

January : ALADIN-HIRLAM verification Task-group kick off meeting

February : (after LACE SC Bratislava) GLAMEPS-LAEF cooperation meeting

March : Surfex working days, Bruxelles

April : LACE Data Assimilation working days

May : 22nd ALADIN Workshop & HIRLAM ASM 2012, Morocco, 7-11/05

June : ALADIN PAC, Bratislava, 4-5/06

June : 7th European Conference on Radar in Meteorology and Hydrology, Toulouse, 25-29/06

June : ALARO working days

October : 34th EWGLAM & 19th SRNWP meeting, Helsinki, 8-11/10

November : 17th ALADIN General Assembly, Austria

?? : C++/OOPS training in Toulouse (LACE would like to have it better before LACE DA working days)

?? : Radar working days (if any)

- **Next LTM meetings**

The **12th LTM meeting** will take place during the 22nd ALADIN Wk, in Morocco, week 7-11/05/2011.

The 13th LTM meeting will be organized besides the 34th EWGLAM meeting. Yong proposes to have the LTM meeting to take place on Tuesday evening rather than on Friday morning (to save one day mission). This is accepted, thus **the 13th meeting will take place on Tuesday October 9, 2012 in Helsinki.**

8. Closing