

Commercialisation of ALADIN outputs by Météo France

Introduction.

The commercialisation of ALADIN results is performed by the commercial branch of Météo France, or by its subsidiary Météo France International (MFI) which has a status of commercial company. In principle Météo France is in charge of the French market and MFI of the international market.

Contract with ARIA Technologies.

Météo France has recently concluded a contract with the French company "ARIA Technologies" to operationally provide output products from a small scale version of ALADIN Model. This version is run by Météo France and the output fields are used as input data for an atmospheric pollution model developed and run by ARIA Technologies. The data are charged according to ECOMET rules, and the corresponding amount will be reimbursed to all Aladin Partners according to the agreed scale. The yearly amount of ALADIN data is 14 000 Euros, starting on 1 January 2005. According to Appendix D of Aladin MoU, 40% of this amount has to be distributed to the Partners.

Possible future contracts with NMSs

MFI is looking for global contracts with foreign National Meteorological Services (NMSs) which want to modernize their basic infrastructure. Generally these NMSs do not have the staff able of developping or maintaining a NWP software. The proposal by MFI is to develop their capabilty in two or three steps:

Step 1 A version of ALADIN model is run on the area of the customer by Météo France in Toulouse and the results are transmitted by telecommunications. (RETIM, GTS, Internet...) This step is 1 to 2 years long

Step 2 MFI installs a computing capacity in the customer Centre, and a model is run locally as a black box. The customer has no access to the code.

Step 3 (possible only in some countries)

If it is possible to train local scientists, the NMS may want to join the ALADIN Club with a status of associated member. This stage can only be reached after several years. In this case, the assembly of ALADIN partners will have to approve the agreement with the new associated partner.

For contracts which cover step 1 and step 2, the royalties for the use of the software would be reimbursed to all ALADIN partners according to the MoU. In addition, experts from ALADIN countries may be hired on a temporary basis by MFI to help implementing the local installation of an ALADIN system in step 2.
