

COORDINATION GROUP ON SATELLITE DATA REQUIREMENTS FOR RA III AND RA IV

11th Teleconference, 4 Nov 2014, 14.00 UTC

Summary

Participants:

Diana Rodriguez, SMN Argentina
Diego Sousa, INPE Brazil
Sergio Pereira, INPE Brazil
Stephan Bojinski, WMO
David Bradley, Environment Canada
Paul Seymour, NOAA NESDIS, USA
Bryan Thomas, Trinidad and Tobago
Sally Wannop, EUMETSAT

Apologies:

Luiz Machado, INPE, Brazil
Estela Collini, SMN Argentina

1. Status of Actions

Action 10.1: Paul Seymour to send latest version of the NSC 2015 Conference programme to the Group, and to confirm a meeting slot for RA-3-4-SDR on Friday 1 May 2015. By 25 Sep 2014.

CLOSED. Paul sent latest agenda to the Group on 4 Nov 2014.

Action 11.1: P. Seymour to confirm whether there is a slot on the Conference agenda to provide feedback from the VLab training event on 25-26 Apr 2015, and the RA III/IV Coordination Group meeting.

Action 10.2: The Group, Paul Seymour and Sally Wannop in particular, are encouraged to provide feedback to the draft Regional Survey report. By 30 Sep 2014.

CLOSED. No further feedback provided; Survey report published on the Group website <http://satellite.cptec.inpe.br/geonetcast/es/datareq.html>

2. Follow-Up to Survey Report

S. Bojinski provided a view on Group follow-up to the Survey, stressing the need for a Region-based satellite data distribution plan that is endorsed and supported by all Members. This was particularly important in light of upcoming new-generation meteorological satellites (GOES-R/S, JPSS). He emphasized that leadership was required to develop and realize such a plan, especially by large countries such as Canada, the US, Brazil, and Argentina. Further, the recommendations made in the Report must find owners.

D. Souza stated that a re-activated GNC-A coordination group and related subgroups should stimulate user training and awareness, the generation of training material, and should provide impetus for developing a Region-wide data distribution plan.

The Group recognized that GEONETCast-Americas (GNC-A) is a key element of satellite data dissemination in the Region.

On a NOAA-INPE bilateral agreement including operations of GNC-A, S. Pereira informed that the contract was still draft and currently under consideration by legal services of the government outside INPE. The contract foresees funding on the part of Brazil of 1Mbit/s additional bandwidth on GNC-A. A GNC-A Coordination sub-committee would decide on content.

He also informed on an approved INPE project for installing 18-20 new GNC-A receiving stations in Brazil.

P. Seymour confirmed that there were currently no provisions on the part of NOAA for the distribution of some GOES-R/S datasets using GNC-A, as a measure to reduce the risk of service interruption in the Region.

D. Bradley stated that Canada had just installed its first EUMETCast-Americas station; in light of the recent service interruption based on retransmission of sounder data, there was increasing interest in using DVB-S2 data receiving systems, at least as back-up. He agreed there was a need in the Region for consolidating several initiatives, however, regional leadership would be needed to realize a Region-based data distribution plan.

A WMO letter to all Members in the Regions, informing about the Group, inviting additional membership, and raising the interest in Region-based dissemination planning should help promote the case of GNC-A, B. Thomas remarked.

3. Response to Requirements table

On the question of data dissemination via GNC-A and who decides which products to add, P. Seymour informed that this was a point under discussion, and that the products sub-group under the GNC-A coordination group should take this on. The WMO requirements developed here were a good candidate to be considered favourably (including GEOTIFFs and imagery products); it was noted that no equivalent set of requirements exists for the other GEO SBAs.

P. Seymour explained that for managing GNC-A, a method for accounting for products, and tools to manage bandwidth had been developed through the GNC-A broadcast management sub-group, with assistance by INPE.

S. Pereira noted that currently on 20% of the bandwidth available on GNC-A were actually used.

S. Wannop and others stated that the meteorological community had a strong need for high-volume and near real-time data services, unlike most other GEO communities, and it was suggested that NOAA consider adding products required by the meteorological community to GNC-A, as per the Requirements table developed by the Group.

4. Image mosaics

S. Pereira described image mosaics produced by INPE based on NOAA-18 and -19 polar imagery, at rectangular and polar stereographic projection. These are now ready to be provided on an operational basis, four mosaics per day, complementing the GOES full disk and South America coverage, and including areas outside the disk. D. Rodriguez agreed to look into these imagery products.

5. AOB

S. Wannop informed that the current contract for EUMETCast-Americas expires in 2015, and that the EUMETSAT Programme Advisory Committee recommended last month to the EUMETSAT Council that this contract be extended by one more year, up to the end of 2016. There is consideration to discuss with NOAA of putting SEVIRI 3-hourly unencrypted data on GNC-A, as an initial step to transitioning from EUMETCast-Americas to GNC-A. S. Pereira expressed his appreciation to this contract extension, given the complementary nature of the EUMETCast-Americas and GNC-A in Brazil.

Regarding the temporary interruption of operational meteorological data services from NOAA between 20 and 23 October 2014 (an “Unplanned network maintenance period”):

Action 11.2: P. Seymour agreed to investigate the reasons for the service interruption, what data was lost in near real-time, and to what extent data lost in near real-time could be recovered for reanalyses and other non real-time applications.

The next meeting will be held on **13 January 2015 at 14.00 UTC**.