

Introduction and recent news from the Project Management

This second Newsletter in 2004 comes relatively late in the year, as a result of both a heavy schedule for the publisher in mid-autumn and the limited number of articles available earlier. Now, with a few recent arrivals, we have quite a good mixture of material and several describe rather final results of developments that have been going on over a number years. E.g. the semi-Lagrangian dynamics, the physics coupling, the new climate data sets and results from the Tartu NH HIRLAM are reported about. There are also a number of new results and further understanding of the CBR scheme and this is also a result of concerted work over several years. The HAC requests a regular report of the RCR performance and a nice report was written for the October meeting, which is the end of the Newsletter.

The front cover illustrates the experimental areas currently used for the initial ALADIN tests. The large area has 11 km resolution and can be compared with HIRLAM, whereas the meso (γ) scale areas are of 2.5 km resolution. The meso-scale group currently at DMI and SMHI with FMI and soon INM involvement is intensively working on setups, interpolation, coupling, running and post-processing ALADIN with a lot of support from Météo-France.

Following the Management Group and HAC decisions earlier, we applied and were granted the access to the ALADIN system for research in April. This was for starting point for getting experience of the system with a view towards later arranging the relationship between HIRLAM and ALADIN. The HIRLAM Council supported the HAC recommendation for a full code collaboration with ALADIN. The HAC formed a sub-group to address the organisational issues in a future HIRLAM – ALADIN collaboration and discussed the options and requirements and also recommended a suitable way forward in a paper to the October HAC meeting. The Project Leader with Management group input prepared a Scientific Roadmap over several years, to highlight the HIRLAM specific profile and likely contributions in another HAC paper.

The HAC discussed these papers in Gothenburg on 21-22 October and supported a symmetrical organisational model with cross-representation in each other's Council/Assembly. Both organisations have MoU's that expire at the end of 2005, hence there is quite an urgent need to think about what shall be in the new ones proposed for 2006 and onwards. It was quite clear at the HAC that a HIRLAM-7 MoU can be quite a lot modelled on the current one, except that the collaboration and role of ALADIN has to be defined. Property rights and rights to use the products have to be defined in the MoU's of both organisations. Research coordination has to be defined.

We needed to have answers to a number of questions from the ALADIN partners and Jeanette Onvlee and myself were invited to the Assembly of partners in Split 29-30 October and together with the ALADIN representative in the HAC, Andras Horanyi (Hungary) we had prepared our presentations to the ALADIN Assembly (Directors and scientific advisers). The HIRLAM collaboration was very well supported and a resolution was formulated and taken with specifics on most of the questions that we were interested in. It describes specific collaboration in meso-scale modelling, data assimilation, ensemble forecasting and training, as the main areas, and stressed the obligations implied by the full code collaboration (provision of at code phasing staff). Furthermore, they want a coordination of research plans already before the start of the new projects. This is somewhat new to us, but perfectly reasonable since we at least this year agreed that we needed to set the Work Plan BEFORE

the start of the new year, not after as has been done during all the years before. Allocation of staff has to be planned well in advance, otherwise we can only accept the already made local plans.

There are thus many important decisions ahead of us. Please note that no decisions have been taken about a HIRLAM-7 yet, although members are planning for a continuation in some form. A very important factor in the decision process is the ongoing Evaluation of HIRLAM, which has been requested by the Council. The research level, operational success, organisational form and the steering of the Project will be examined, to put it briefly. The Council managed to engage an excellent team consisting of Dave Burridge, Erland Källén and Claude Pastre for this task. Time is tight, due to MoU, and the report should be completed by 28 February 2005. The team will visit member institutes and meet with Directors, HAC members, Heads of Research, Management Group members and an experienced HIRLAM staff member from each institute. At most one day is available in each place, so the team members have to rely on that the views of those people interviewed well represent the view on the institute and its users (of HIRLAM). E.g. the operational implementations cannot be investigated per say, but it is up to the Directors to give the view of the institute.

I believe the Evaluation team will give their view of our scientific direction and what is required in order to be leading in say 10 year's time. Furthermore they will document our organisational problems (and advantages) and probably discuss alternatives. Also changes in the way the Project is steered may be suggested.

The outcome of the Evaluation will certainly be used by our members for and before taking further decisions about the future (we have already taken decisions about the ALADIN collaboration, but the exact forms will need to be formulated in a new MoU, and for which we already have a lot of input).

Finally, please let me remind you about the All Staff Meeting in Dublin 14-16 March 2005. There is an international Rugby tournament in town that weekend and very busy, so please take note of the early deadline for registration of 10 January 2005 (for the hotel reservation primarily). Depending on the number of Newsletter contributions, I will try to publish one in February next year, but more likely the printed issue will be after the ASM. Many staff seem to collect their contributions to the ASM or/and the subsequent Newsletter. New contributions may as always appear on HeXNeT as a rolling Newsletter.

Recent meetings:

Organisational HIRLAM meetings:

- HIRLAM-6 Management Group Meeting 13, 18 May, 2004, FMI, Helsinki.
- HIRLAM Council Meeting No 3, 2 June, 2004, Reading.
- HIRLAM-6 Management Group Meeting 14, 15 June, 2004, KNMI, De Bilt.
- HIRLAM-6 Management Group Meeting 15, 26 August, 2004, telephone conference.
- HIRLAM-6 Management Group Meeting 16, 14 September, 2004, SMHI, Norrköping
- HIRLAM-6 Management Group Meeting 17, 13 October, 2004, telephone conference.
- HIRLAM Advisory Committee Meeting, 21-22 October, Gothenburg.

Workshops and other scientific HIRLAM-6 Meetings:

- SRNWP Verification Methods Workshop, KNMI, 14-15 June, 2004.
- HIRLAM/SRNWP Workshop on Surface processes and assimilation, 15-17 September, 2004, SMHI.

Publications:

HIRLAM Newsletter No. 45, May 2004.

Forthcoming meetings

- Variational DA SRNWP/Met Office/HIRLAM, Exeter, 15-17 November 2004.
- HIRLAM Council Meeting, 15 December 2004, Reading.
- Convection/condensation mini-workshop, 24-26 January, Tartu.
- All Staff Meeting, 14-16 March, Dublin

Per Undén, 8 November 2004