

Introduction and recent news from the Project Management

As promised and hoped for, this first HIRLAM Newsletter was put together right at the end of February 2005 (and the first days of March). Quite a few contributions have arrived and I am pleased to see both very encouraging verification results as well as important descriptions of problems in the HIRLAM Reference system and analysis of their reasons and solutions or suggestions for improvements.

This year started with a sequence of meetings both for the Management group and for the physics staff, mainly. Laura Rontu and Nils Gustavsson commenced their duties as Area leaders from 1 January. There were very interesting meetings on convection in Tartu and a one-day meeting on the Nordic Temperature problem in Helsinki. New results were presented and there were good discussions and agreed plans for further actions. Please see the hirlam.fmi.fi web pages for further details (and more will appear).

At the end of last year many of us met with the Evaluation team and the work has now been completed. The report is available on HeXNeT. I think it is an important document and it shall be used by our Council to guide them for where we are to go in the future. It is also about the future role of HIRLAM and strategy in the context of all the European NWP activities. Important meetings will be held the next few months. I hope that I will hear more input and reactions from you at the All Staff Meeting in Dublin.

There has been a lot of activity in the physics area the last few years and many important changes have been made to the turbulence scheme, surface stress and surface properties, surface fluxes, partitioning between ice and water for clouds and significant code improvements. As a result the performance of the model has improved quite dramatically for important forecast parameters, as is documented in this Newsletter. I think we all can look forward to the next Reference release with satisfaction and our users I am sure will appreciate the improved performance. At the same time, further understanding and progress has been made for the remaining large problems for Nordic temperatures in winter and spring. Sander Tijn has made a number of very illuminating 1D simulations, also in this NL.

Recent meetings:

Organisational HIRLAM meetings:

- HIRLAM-6 Management Group Meeting 18, 18 November, 2004, Express Holiday Inn, Exeter.
- HIRLAM Council Meeting No 4, 15 December, 2004, ECMWF, Reading.
- Member institute visit, 17- 19 January, 2005, DMI, Copenhagen
- HIRLAM-6 Management Group Meeting 19, 18- 19 January, 2005, DMI, Copenhagen
- HIRLAM-6 Management Meeting 20, 3 March, 2005, telephone conference.

Workshops and other scientific HIRLAM-6 Meetings:

- SRNWP/Met Office/HIRLAM High resolution Data Assimilation Workshop, 15- 17 November, 2004, Met Office, Exeter.
- Convection/condensation Workshop, 24- 26 January, 2005, Tartu University, Tartu
- Nordic Temperature meeting, 31 January, 2005, FMI, Helsinki.

Publications:

HIRLAM Newsletter No. 46, November 2004.

HIRLAM Technical Report No. 63: Verification of HIRLAM with ECMWF physics compared with HIRLAM reference versions. Cisco de Bruin and Erik van Meijgaard, January, 2005.

Forthcoming meetings

- All Staff Meeting, 14- 16 March, 2005, Dublin
- Member institute visit, 16 March, 2005, Met Eireann, Dublin
- HIRLAM Management Group Meeting, 17 March, 2005, Dublin
- HIRLAM Advisory Committee Meeting, 31 March – 1 April, 2005, met.no, Oslo
- HIRLAM Council Meeting, 11 April, 2005, Basel
- HIRLAM Management Group Meeting, 26 April, 2005, telephone conference
- HIRLAM Advisory Committee Meeting, 19- 20 May, (reserved)
- HIRLAM Management Group / ALADIN CSSI meeting, 5 June, 2005, Bratislava
- ALADIN Workshop, 6- 11 June, 2005, Bratislava
- HIRLAM Council Meeting, 15 June, 2005, Reading
- Member institute visit, 29 –30 August, 2005, SMHI, Norrköping
- HIRLAM Management Group Meeting, 30 August, 2005, SMHI, Norrköping

Per Undén, 4 March, 2005