

ATSR Core Group

Summary of the 12th meeting, held on 15 October 1998 at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

Present:

Prof D Llewellyn-Jones
(Univ. of Leicester) - Chair

Dr J Abolins (RAL)

Dr J Ballard (RAL)

Dr S Briggs (NERC)

Dr P Goryl (ESRIN)

Mr T Guymer (SOC)

Dr A Harris (UK Met Office)

Dr J Hinton (NERC)

Mr N Houghton (RAL)

Dr P Martin (ESA)

Dr C Merchant (UCL)

Dr C Mutlow (RAL)

Ms A Morrison (NERC) - Secretary

Apologies:

Dr I Barton (CSIRO)

Mrs K Hutchins (NRSC)

Dr S Laxon (UCL)

Dr K Pearson (DETR)

Dr J Settle (ESSC)

RAL Progress Report

RAL presented their quarterly report covering the 3 months since the previous meeting, and some key points are noted here. The backlog processing of ATSR-2 data was completed ahead of schedule, and the ATSR-1 reprocessing for the Met Office is going well. Some changes have been made to the instrument to cope with degradation of the visible channels. The extra task of moving from the FTAM system to FTP, for orbital element transferral, was successfully undertaken this quarter. The User Group meeting was not able to go ahead in September, but has been rescheduled for December.

RAL noted to the ACG that at some point they will need to merge with the AATSR Reference Processor. NERC and DETR need to consider what their requirements are. This will be discussed at the User Group meeting in December, to consider whether ATSR data should be transferred to similar products to AATSR, or whether another approach should be taken.

ESA Progress Report

ESA reported on the status of the near-real-time (NRT) service from Tromsø. Acceptance tests are being carried out, and these are progressing well. It is intended to start a pre-operational phase shortly, to run for 1-2 months, with data being provided only to ESRIN and RAL. It is expected that the service will be fully operational from the end of December.

The ENVISAT data policy has been approved, along with a requirement to review the ERS data policy, perhaps to bring it into line with that of ENVISAT. This is likely to lead to a more flexible approach to low rate data.

ESA reported on the future strategy for the ERS satellites. Plans beyond the launch of ENVISAT will be presented soon to DOESTAG, and are yet to be funded. It is intended to continue the first phase of ERS until 2001. The second phase - until the launch of METOP - should continue to run instruments not available on ENVISAT. GOME and ATSR are considered to be of high priority.

ERS-2 is operating well.

So far, 2 days of re-transcribed ERS-1 data have been delivered to RAL. Some problems in the software still require attention.

Post Launch Support (PLS) Activities

The management plan for the next three years of the RAL PLS Programme is now in place.

RAL, Andy Harris and the Chairman will meet by 23rd October to define a data intercomparison exercise and assess resource requirements. They will circulate their implementation plan to members of the ACG for their consideration and feedback by 3rd November.

RAL will place ATSR PLS information and documents on the web as these are generated, but do not have the resources to produce extra documents specifically for this purpose. Specifically, RAL will place the following items on the web pages within a month of each meeting: an executive summary of the ACG quarterly meetings, as provided by the Secretary; their own quarterly report (edited as necessary for commercial interests); any other items of interest to users.

RAL are drafting an article for publication in EOS, the newspaper of the AGU, to promote the quality and availability of ATSR data.

RAL have discussed the possibility of DERA providing NRT data to RAL customers. However, while DERA are quite keen to offer a commercial service, they are not as interested in providing a free service. RAL have gone as far as they can in negotiating and asked NERC to step in to negotiate on their behalf. The interest and requirements of users of a NRT service will be discussed at the December Users Group meeting.

The Product Control Board (PCB) will meet before the next ACG meeting to debate SADIST's future development.

RAL have booked rooms for the international Users Group meeting to be held 19-21 April 1999 at RAL, and will start to advertise the meeting in early November. Something to do with ESA supporting. RAL will press on with the arrangements anyway. Some comments from ESA that I didn't follow. Could Chris clarify please? Something about support from ESA? RAL will produce a draft programme for the International Users meeting (19-21 April 1999), to include plans for accommodation and advertising, by 6th November.

Promotion of ATSR

a) User Guide and ATSR Reference Handbook

A draft (version 0) of the "User Guide" was presented by RAL. Members were asked to return their feedback to Chris Mutlow by 6th November.

RAL will place the draft User Guide (version 0) on the web as it stands, with a cover note explaining its draft status, along with the draft "ATSR Reference Handbook". Revised version 1 of the User Guide will replace version 0 on the web by 20th November, in time for user's consideration before the User Group meeting.

b) User Group Meeting

RAL are organising an ATSR Users Group meeting for 2-4 December 1998. Items to be discussed at this meeting include: seeking collaborators from within the User community to help study particular issues concerning the underpinning physics; the interest and requirements of users of a NRT service; drafts of the "User Guide" and the "ATSR Reference Handbook"

AATSR Current Status

Some progress has been made with the noise problem in AATSR such that the instrument is now less sensitive to the vibrations in the FPA. The calibration phase of the instrument has been completed and testing is due to take place shortly.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ACG will take place on the afternoon of **Thursday 14th January 1999 at RAL.**