

MINISTERE DE L'EQUIPEMENT, DU
LOGEMENT,
DES TRANSPORTS ET DE LA MER

DIRECTION DE LA METEOROLOGIE
NATIONALE

Boulogne, le

INFORMAL TRANSLATION

Dear Sir,

In this letter, the Direction de la Météorologie nationale wishes to offer to the Central European Meteorological Services a possibility to cooperate in the area of Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP). This proposal is geared towards longer term perspectives and aims at building on and improving the expertise already existing in your service or your country, while also generating some positive returns for our own work. It is complementing the distribution by the RETIM system of french NWP products from The EMERAUDE/PERIDOT system (soon to be replaced by the ARPEGE system).

The idea is to associate central European specialists in NWP or in meso-scale atmospheric modelling to the development, to the fine-mesh validation and to the improvement of a "limited-area-type" version of the ARPEGE system. This kind of collaboration would be quite similar to the one existing between the Swiss Meteorological Service and the Deutsche Wetterdienst. It would allow to familiarise your specialists with very advanced development techniques in NWP and should in principle lead to some "dynamical-adaptation-type" use with fine meshes on a small domain, in case your country (or countries) would gain future access to relatively powerful computing devices. We think that this strategy is suited to your future needs.

A first draft for a three-phase plan was suggested during your visit (or that of your representative) in Toulouse :

a) Evaluation of the specific difficulties of such a project by a few central European NWP specialists with operational or quasi-operational experience (target date : as soon as possible from february 91 onwards ; place : Paris) ; at this stage it will be crucial to keep in mind that the above-mentioned difficulties are likely to be of the non-scientific type; i.e. rather linked to the problems of portability and flexible use for sophisticated software. Subsequently and if feasible, design of the project, in an exercise where all declared participants would be associated by correspondence (target date : plan ready around May 91).

b) If phase a) concludes to the feasibility of such a project, then scientific and technical familiarisation for the chosen scientists, identification and selection of individual duties and beginning of work on them, all this taking place first in Paris (up to July 91) and subsequently in Toulouse (from September 91) by means of long or frequent stays. One can estimate that a person chosen for this type of activity would have to spend around 30 % of his/her time in France, a few key persons charged with coordinating duties inside the project being there quasi-permanently. This phase should last for 1,5/2 years at least.

c) Transportation phase, either of carefully isolated specific problems for further research activities or of the full developed code, the proportion of remote work increasing regularly. It is far more difficult here to describe working schedules or durations, since many yet unknown factors would have to be considered in due time.

Such a plan, if it receives your support, is very likely to benefit from french grants for the living allowances of the people working on it, the support for travel costs remaining your responsibility.

We envisage, in case of a sufficiently positive response of the contacted services, to ask for such financial support during december 90. We thus would like you to give us very rapidly your opinion about this proposal ; if it is positive, your remarks about the plan as well as an estimate of the number of people you would envisage to associate to the project (in the sense defined with respect to phase b)) and, if possible, some names and CVs.

Your correspondents at DMN for all details concerning this proposal are :

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In the hope that we shall establish a mutually fruitful collaboration,

Sincerely yours,