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Prepared by EUMETSAT
Agenda Item: G.1

STATUS OF THE EUMETSAT SATELLITE APPLICATIONS FACILITIES

The Network of EUMETSAT Satellite Application Facilities (SAFs) progresses well. The first 7 approved SAFs started in March 2007 a 5-year Continuous Development and Operations Phase and they operationally distribute MSG and EPS based products and software. The SAF on Support to Operational Hydrology and Water Management is completing the second year of its development phase.

Action/Recommendation proposed:

CGMS is invited to take note of the progress of activities and operations of the SAF Network at EUMETSAT.

Status of the EUMETSAT Satellite Applications Facilities

1 INTRODUCTION

This paper presents the status of development/operations of the EUMETSAT Network of Satellite Application Facilities (SAF) and provides the relevant medium/long-term planning elements.

There are currently 8 SAF projects running (see figure 1), at different status of development or operations:

- SAF on Support to Nowcasting and Very Short-Range Forecasting (NWC);
- SAF on Ocean and Sea Ice (OSI);
- SAF on Ozone and Atmospheric Chemistry Monitoring (O3M);
- SAF on GRAS Meteorology (GRAS);
- SAF on Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP);
- SAF on Climate Monitoring (CM);
- SAF on Land Surface Analysis (LSA);
- SAF on Support to Operational Hydrology and Water Management (H).

2 STATUS OF ACTIVITIES

In the last year, the EUMETSAT SAF Network has progressed well, in line with the plans for the 7 SAFs in Continuous Development and Operations Phase (CDOP), and in line with the plans established by the SAF on Support to Operational Hydrology and Water Management for completion of its 5-year Development Phase by 2010.

The Continuous Development and Operations Phase (CDOP), which started in March 2007, addresses the continuation of the services, implemented in the Initial Operations Phase (IOP) and in the Development phase, but also focus on the improvement of existing products and the development of new products and services.

In the first year of the CDOP, dedicated effort was spent in harmonising the approaches and procedures within the SAF Network but also within the overall EUMETSAT Ground Segment. Dedicated meetings and workshops resulted in a convergence of SAFs and EUMETSAT Central Facilities in procedures and terminology. These developments lead to an increased visibility of SAF products and services as part of the EUMETSAT services in the scientific and user community as well as for a coherent monitoring, management and user support.

The SAFs in CDOP continue the operational generation and dissemination of software and near-real-time products, as well as the generation and archiving of the off-line products, for all products that achieved their operational readiness. This includes an increasing number of products based on EPS data.

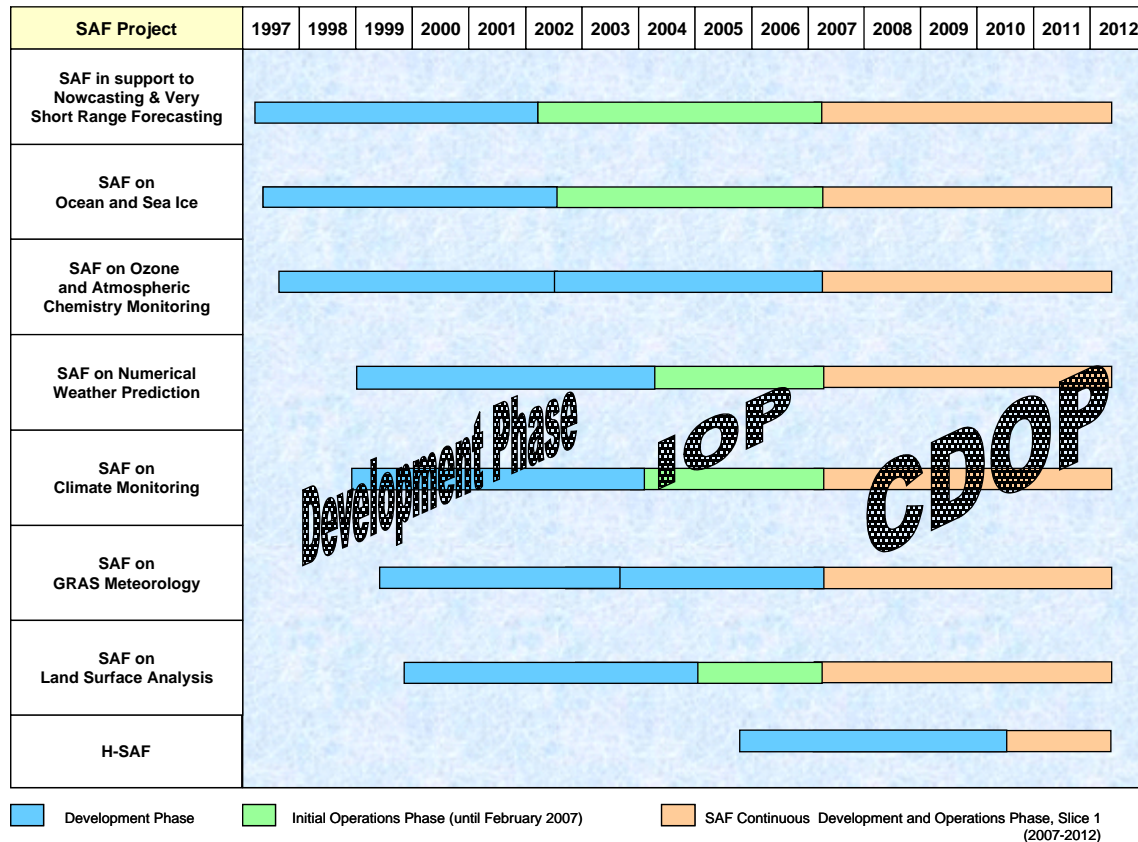


Figure 1 SAF Network Phasing and Planning

The following recent major achievements of the SAF Network are, in particular, highlighted:

- O3M SAF products upgrade (NUV NO2, BrO and Aerosols pre-operational and demonstrational) and start of EUMETCast dissemination;
- Release of GRAS SAF ROPP software package version 1.1, start of NRT dissemination of refractivity profiles under “demonstrational” status and start of assimilation of GRAS SAF data into ECMWF/MetOffice models in demonstrational mode;
- Start of early dissemination of H-SAF products to the internal Validation programme and to selected beta users;
- Release of Version 2008 of the NWC SAF PPS software package;
- Release of the IASI cloud and aerosol detection software of the NWP SAF;
- Successful implementation of the Fire Radiant Power FRP product in the Land SAF processing chain. Successful reviews for Evapotranspiration and FRP, ready of pre-operational dissemination;
- The successful Metadata Incremental integration for what relates the Land SAF MSG Based Products and the O3M SAF Products;
- The successful first set of Integration, Verification and Validation activities within the EPS programme (through ORR-A) for the OSI, O3M and GRAS Meteorology SAFs;
- The progress in the consolidation of the SAF documentation of the Continuous Development and Operations Phase (CDOP).
- Participation of the SAF projects to the EUMETSAT Conference, Darmstadt, September 2008, is also highlighted together with the effort spent to prepare for such event, including setup of stands

Preparation of a manuscript of an introduction paper to be submitted to the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society (BAMS). (Closure of CGMS-35 action)

The CDOP offers many opportunities to continue and expand the inter-SAF activities for the benefit of the whole SAF Network and its user communities. This has been formalised in the new federated activity programme: Part of the budget of each SAF is reserved for such federated activities within the overall application ground segment, including the central facilities in Darmstadt. This new framework is now in use and confirmed as a key-to-success for the SAF Network.

3 MEDIUM/LONG-TERM PLANNING

The following main planning elements are applicable to the SAF Network:

SAF CDOP: 2007-2012

Following CDOP slices: 5 years, first starting in March 2012

CDOP-2 (2012-2017) approved to be financed as part of the MTG Programme

4 CONCLUSIONS

CGMS is invited to take note of the progress of activities and operations of the SAF Network at EUMETSAT.

Detailed information on the status of the SAF projects and of distributed products is available on the EUMETSAT Web.