Minutes of COSMO TAG Meeting, Friday, December 12th 2014 (09:00-12:00 CET)

Participants: **COSMO Software Administrators** (Uli Schättler (**US**), Jean-Marie Bettems (**JMB**), Daniel Lüthi (**DL**), Adriano Raspanti (**AR**)), **TAG Coordinator** (Massimo Milelli (**MM**))

Excused: Uli Blahak (**UB**), Theodore Andreadis (**TA**)

Chair: Massimo Milelli (**MM**)

Minutes: Massimo Milelli (**MM**)

Agenda item 1: improvement of VERSUS/Fieldextra XML interface

The xml template which has been proposed by MeteoSwiss is approved by the VERSUS SCA (**AR**). The latest official release of fieldextra (11.3.0) is able to work with this xml template. The document has been distributed via email (September 1st).
Decision: document approved.

Agenda item 2: web related items (software pages, repository, bug reporting and tracking system, external server)

Software pages: the COSMO software architecture documentation on the web (pending from the previous TAG meeting) should be tackled. A more general reorganization of the web site is required as far as the "software" and "model" pages (but not only) are concerned. Theodore Andreadis (web manager) prepared a private demo page with a draft of architecture documentation. The page was shown by **MM** and the feedback was positive. **US** recommends to keep the page private in order to fix all the links. The final product will be presented during the SMC in Torino. **DL** requests to have the possibility to edit the pages in order to upload directly the contents.
Decision: this preliminary page structure is approved and will be presented to January SMC for a final decision.

Repository: **MM** explains that (at least in a first stage) it would be enough to have a storage where the tar files of the different software versions (COSMO, INT2LM, VERSUS, FieldExtra, ExtPar) are available for the download. The WRF user's page is shown as an example. There the software is available for registered users only. The participants agree and accept the proposal. **JMB** remarks that FieldExtra and ExtPar are stored in a code repository at CSCS and that this approach is very useful for common code development; a COSMO solution for a common code repository for all COSMO software should be envisaged in the future.
Decision: the proposal is accepted by the TAG and can be presented to SMC.

Bug reporting and tracking system: the software Bugzilla is available on the server but is not used because it is not advertised. **US** would like to test it before. The work has been delayed because of the release of COSMO 5.1 and 5.1.1.
Decision: the TAG proposes to wait for this internal testing before promoting the software.

External server: during the discussion in Eretria, it came out that the HNMS server is quite old and being behind a firewall has some limitation. The possibility to have an external server is therefore investigated. **MM** shows a web page (http://aws.amazon.com/ec2/pricing under **TA** suggestion) with an estimate of the costs: see "On-Demand Instances" then "Region: EU (Frankfurt)". A system suitable for COSMO users should fall between "m3.medium" and "m3.large" according to **TA**, which means between 700 and 1500 USD. This is only a rough estimate, in principle it is possible to activate on-demand services, according to the users needs. **AR** thinks this is a good solution since it is not too expensive and has advantages with respect to the present situation. **US** remarks that the system must be reliable, accessible and with services according to our needs. Moreover HNMS should take care of the technical and administrative aspects. The possibility to use COSMO money has to be investigated, not only for the web server, but also for a person helping **TA** in the work of administrator which requires more and more resources.

Decision: the TAG promotes the idea of investing COSMO money to consolidate the COSMO web, through an external web server or a consolidation of the actual solution and the idea to help **TA** in his work of administrator. The COSMO-Money should be given to Greece and they should take care of the COSMO Web Services. The SMC and eventually the STC are requested to evaluate the proposition.

Agenda item 3: AoB

MM asks for an update about the Technical Test Suite situation. **US** tested it on a local machine, not on the new Cray, but he would promote the use of it among the COSMO developers. Reference data are already distributed with the new COSMO releases and they could help as a support of the TTS.