

SAON – January 2012 Progress Report for PEOPLE-ACE

The ACE Team conducted a System Design Review (SDR) of the Operational, Technical, and Transition aspects of the project on 17 November 2011. The project was found to be on schedule and on budget and was supported by NASA, National Ice Center (NIC), University of Alabama Huntsville (UAHuntsville), Universities Space Research Association (USRA), Navy, EUCOM, and Von Braun Center for Science & Innovation (VCSI). The ACE Team plans to execute the Operational Demonstration in Q4 FY12 using the developmental system at UAHuntsville, while simultaneously preparing for the transition to Google Cloud.

The ACE Tool Prototype Concept was vetted with a broad array of critical user groups and was well received. The Team has now moved to frame the next iteration of the proposed ACE Tool. Expectations are that the alpha version of our new tool will be ready for presentation in early February, with reviews planned with US Coast Guard District 17, the National Ice Center, NWS Anchorage, NOAA, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Shell, Conoco and we hope the Canadian Ice Service and Russian Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute. Once we have done the assessment of the alpha product with key end users, the Team will finalize the tool for Beta testing. Our goal is to be in a position to do that by the end of April – hopefully at the IPY Conference in Montreal, Canada.

As part of its initial evaluation of the proposed ACE Tool a wide range of meetings and briefings were conducted including:

- Arctic Council Advisory Group
- US Coast Guard District 17
- NOAA Sea Ice Forecasting Workshop
- International Ice Chart Working Group
- Arctic Council Search and Rescue Table Top Exercise-Canadian Command
- Multi-Agency Situational Awareness System (MASAS) [Canada]
- Canadian Embassy and Key US Government Officials
- National Weather Service Anchorage, AK Sea Ice Desk
- NOAA Arctic Environmental Management Response Application ERMA
- Navy Undersea Technology
- NASA Short term Prediction Research and Transition Center (SPoRT)
- Key NOAA Officials

We were glad that you were able to be part of several of these demonstrations and we are most open to any inputs you have – with your NSF or ONR or SAON hats on.

The Team continues to plan additional meetings/discussions with Environment Canada, the Canadian Ice Service (CIS), the Russian Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (AARI), etc. to expand the international participation on the team and the project. The Team also intends to meet with NORTHCOM, NORAD, Canada Command, Shell and Conoco regarding the project, the exchange of data, and end use.

At the end of the process, the Team intends to stand up the tool at the NIC – and the team stands ready to share the tool with international partners, governmental entities, private firms and the research community.

In March 2011, the Operational Manager (OM) chaired the User Requirements Working Group, which produced the initial User Requirements. Participating in the Group were: EUCOM, NORAD-NORTHCOM, National Ice Center (NIC), Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL), U. S. Army Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC), US Coast Guard (USCG), Bundeswehr Geoinformation Service, NASA, Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), University of Alabama Huntsville (UAHuntsville), Von Braun Center for Science & Innovation (VCSI), and the Rapid Fielding Directorate in DoD.

The Transition Manager (XM) issued grants to the University of Maryland College Park (UMCP), the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), the Aurora Research Institute (ARI), and the University of Delaware. The UMCP students are working under the supervision of Dr. Thorsten Markus of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC). The UAF researchers under the leadership of Dr. John Walsh are Adrienne Tivy of (CIS) and Russian collaborators at AARI. A highlight of the student work on ACE will include the work of the Aurora Research Institute (ARI). The ARI team will work on creating layers of past and present research licensing information for display in Google Earth, including the development of nested categories (researcher, license number, home institutions, type of research, region, etc) that links to the online ARI database of Northwest Territories license applications (<http://data.nwtresearch.com/>).

A Transition Plan review was conducted at the NIC. This meeting engaged the Director, Chief Scientist, CIO and staff of the NIC, Director of the NOAA Polar Programs, the Director and Deputy Director of the Navy Climate Change Task Force, the Deputy S&T for EUCOM, the NASA Technical Manager and SES Lead, and a rep from VCSI. A draft plan will be evaluated and reviewed in the January 2012 timeframe with the leadership of NOAA, the Coast Guard and the Navy.

If you need any additional information – do not hesitate to contact me or key members of the team. I have cc'd them on the transmittal so that you and the SAON members have their contact info.