

CCI Project Quarterly Status Report Jan 01 – March 31 2012

Aerosol_cci

Project Status

The project is now completely on schedule (which had been extended in the round robin phase to allow proper algorithm evaluation). Some delay had occurred on the system engineering task, which is covered up. The major project achievement up to now is the issue of the Product Validation and Algorithm Selection Report based on intensive algorithm analysis and dialogue of the whole team

Main Progress in last 3 months

In the last 3 months the major focus was on completing the round robin analysis. In an intensive iteration cycle led by the science leaders between validation / user partners and EO experts in the team an overall consensus was found which algorithms are considered mature and compatible at this time for ECV production. So far these are algorithms for AATSR (combination and / or ensemble of several algorithms, land and ocean) and PARASOL and MERIS (ocean only). The team concluded that a re-implementation of algorithms as prototypes is not necessary or helpful in the light of the technical maturity of the existing algorithms which allow producing one year global datasets as planned. Furthermore, it was concluded that continued algorithm improvement is essential and the round robin provides only an analysis at a snapshot and thus should be repeated at a later stage.

The System Requirements Document had already been issued in the last quarter. In the meantime, the System Specification Document has been issued. The most challenging system requirement lies in the need to implement appropriate procedures which link the science team within the overall system responsible for continuous algorithm evolution to the technical system.

Next Steps 3-6 months

Based on the analysis of the round robin datasets and a number of algorithm experiments conducted to understand the major critical modules, a work plan for continued algorithm development towards a future repeated round robin exercise was agreed. This work plan includes improvement of the common cloud mask and surface treatment as well as specific improvements for several algorithms. Production of one year global datasets is foreseen for autumn 2012 to allow sufficient time for their evaluation by users.