

Progress Report of COST-723

to the Technical Committee on Meteorology 25th Meeting 07-08 November 2002
by S. Bühler (MC-Chair), W. Lahoz (MC-VChair), B. Legras (WG3-Chair)

1. Objectives of the Action

The main objective of the Action is to advance the understanding of the state of the global upper troposphere and lower stratosphere, and the role of the dynamical, chemical, and radiative processes in this altitude region. COST Action 723 will provide value-added quality-controlled datasets of geophysical parameters (e.g., ozone and water vapour) which are believed to be important for the study of radiative, dynamical, and photochemical processes in the tropopause altitude region (5 km above and below the tropopause). Hitherto, there has been little information on these geophysical parameters in this region. The Action will contribute toward making the best use of observations, models and assimilation algorithms, and toward the definition of new strategies for future research.

2. Working Groups (WGs)

As planned in the TA to the MoU, three working groups have been initiated:

- WG1: Data and Measurement Techniques
- WG2: An assimilated Ozone and Humidity Dataset
- WG3: Assessing the State of the UTLS and Understanding the Relevant Processes

The objectives of these WGs are as outlined in the TA of the MoU.

3. Status

Presently 14 countries are participating in COST-723. A list of the National Delegates can be found in the last section.

On September 9-10, 2002, the 1st MCM was arranged. Stefan Bühler from the University of Bremen was elected as MC-Chair, William Lahoz from the Data Assimilation Research Centre as Vice-Chair.

WGs were established at the MCM, and a first draft workplan was set up (<http://www.sat.uni-bremen.de/cost/docs/>). However, this still needs a lot of refinement. Draft EoCs are also collected on the web (<http://www.sat.uni-bremen.de/cost/docs/eoc/>). The list is far from complete at this stage.

MC members expressed the concern, that the too general title of the Action could endanger EU Framework 6 funding for other related activities. These concerns were taken very seriously by the MC. It was decided in unison that the Action title should be amended to more closely match the Actions scope, as described in the TA of the MoU. The requested new title is: **"Model and Data Exploitation Studies for the Upper Troposphere and**

Lower Stratosphere".

4. Progress of WGs

MC members will act as seeds for the WGs, but the rest of the WG members still have to be established. WG chairs are Stefan Bühler (WG1), William Lahoz (WG2), and Bernard Legras (WG3).

5. STSMs, study contracts, workshops

At this stage of the COST-722 Action no study STSMs, study contracts, or workshop have taken place.

6. Budget matters

At present, 14 countries participate in COST-723 with 28 MC-members in total (including chair and vice-chair). It is estimated, that additionally approximately 30 WG-members who are not MC-members will be involved (2 per country). This is just a rough estimate, however.

7. Progress with respect to time-table

According to the TA time-table, the opening workshop was planned to be 6 months after the start of the Action. However, the MC learned at the meeting that because of COST-global constraints, it will not be possible to have any meetings before summer 2003.

To make the best out of this difficult situation, and to account for budget constraints, it was decided that the next MC and WG meeting should be along with the public opening workshop. The date for this was planned to be end of October or beginning of November 2003.

This means that communication in the preparation phase has to be carried out largely by email.

8. Dissemination of results

The results of the Action will be collected on the Actions web site and in scientific publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

The Action web site has already been created. The address is: <http://www.sat.uni-bremen.de/cost/>. Furthermore, an address database and mailing lists for MC and WGs have been created, as well as an open mailing list for other interested scientists. These mailing lists are also hosted on the web site.

9. Economic dimension

The economic dimension of COST-723 as expressed in terms of estimates of person power dedicated to the activities of the Action and funds received from the Commission for Secretariat, Publications, Workshops and Seminars, MC-meetings, STSM and others, is listed in the following table.

a: Number of participating countries:	14
b: Number of participants for each country:	4 (including 2 MC members)
c: Number of MC members for each country:	2
d: Costs for one travel:	1 kEuro
e: Length of the action in years:	4
f: Frequency of MC meetings:	1/year
g: Frequency of WG meetings:	1/year

MC Meetings:	$a*c*d*e*f = 14*2*1*4*1 =$	112 kEuro
WG Meetings:	$a*(b-c)*d*e*g =$	112 kEuro
STSMs:	$e*10kEuro/year =$	40 kEuro
Workshops:	$3 \text{ workshops} * 10 \text{ kEuro/workshop} =$	30 kEuro
Study contracts:	$e*10kEuro/year =$	40 kEuro
Publications:	$5kEuro*(3 \text{ workshops} +$ $2 \text{ special reports} +$ $1 \text{ exec. sum}) =$	30 kEuro

Total EU funding =		364 kEuro

10. Future plans

Between now and the opening workshop, the WG chairmen must consolidate their WGs by contacting the appropriate persons. Also, MC and WG must prepare the opening workshop (find a date and location, later prepare the program).

11. List of National Delegates

Listed below are only names and email addresses of the delegates. Full addresses can be found at <http://www.sat.uni-bremen.de/cost/addresses/>.

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