

Report on the
24th RMDCN Operations Committee Meeting

25-26 September 2017
WMO, Geneva, Switzerland



1. Opening

On behalf of ECMWF Oliver Gorwits welcomed all participants to ECMWF including the people connected via the Bluejeans Conference session. Unfortunately, Isabella Weger, Deputy Director of Computing at ECMWF and chair of the RMDCN Operations Committee was unable to attend due to other commitment and had tasked Oliver to chair the session. Oliver thanked WMO for hosting the meeting.

Mr Peilang Shi, Director of WIS of the WMO, welcomed the participants and recognised the crucial role of the RMDCN. He encouraged the participants to have a fruitful discussion and explore how the RMDCN could participate in the future WIS Core.

After some housekeeping items, Oliver invited on behalf of ECMWF all participants for dinner. We received apologies from Erik Wein from Denmark, who was not able to attend due to flight cancellation. Oliver then gave a brief overview of the aim of the meeting with some interesting presentations to look forward to.

2. Actions from previous ROC meeting

- a) ECMWF and WMO to discuss the membership of ROC as it was suggested to add chair of ET-CTS as member of ROC.

On this item David Thomas from WMO informed the meeting that following a RA VI resolution it was agreed to add the chair of the ET-CTS workgroup to the ROC membership.

- b) Add a reminder for next ITT to include/investigate provisions for RMDCN services in high-risk countries regarding payment, highly regulated telecom industries, etc.

This was noted.

3. RMDCN Status and Performance

Tony Bakker presented the performance of the RMDCN and the current status of the network. There are now 55 sites connected. During the last 12 months USA was disconnected and New Caledonia joined the network. New connections are in progress for Tunisia and Kazakhstan.

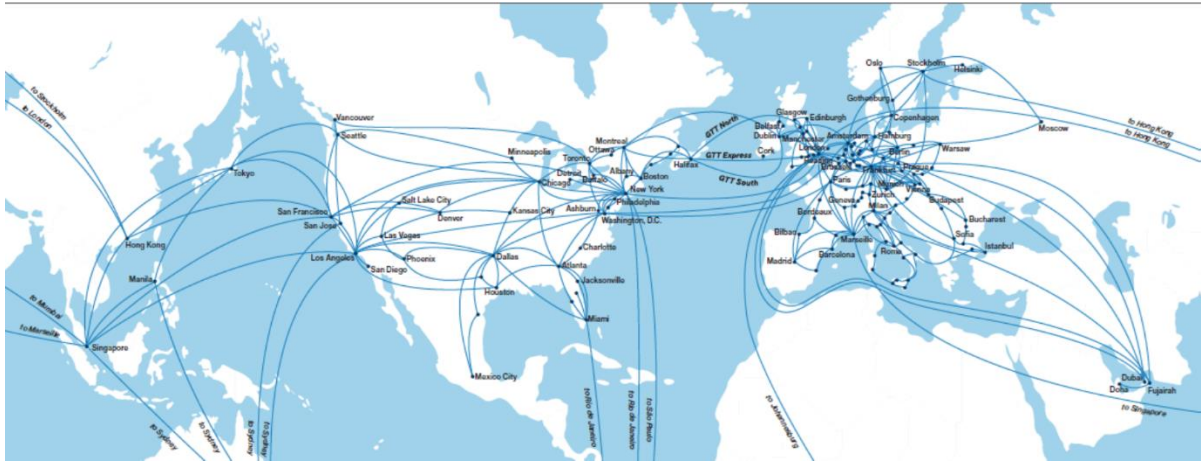
The connection to Canada was down for 5 days which affected the global service availability as this is a connection without backup. There were various not SLA impacting issues, which caused some longer than expected times to repair, most notably one of the connections to France was down for 7 days.

ECWFMF had meetings with Interoute senior management and GTT issued apologies for the delays in provisioning the upgrades in France and Ireland.

Interoute has started some cost neutral upgrade programmes for UK and Scandinavian sites.

4. GTT Acquisition of Interoute

Oliver Gorwits discussed the recent acquisition of Interoute by GTT. GTT is from origin based in the USA and Interoute is Europe centric. GTT will now have a better global reach and a strong presence in North-America and Europe.



Interoute as a company will become a fully owned subsidiary of GTT. Not a lot will change in the short term. There will be some change during next year with the migration of the Web interface to GTT's Ethernvision product. Also, the SD-WAN product will need to be aligned as currently Interoute's solution and GTT solution use different products.

The support channels remain the same and the existing Interoute staff dealing with ECMWF will stay on the project. The only thing that has changed quickly are the email addresses, so for reporting issues the new email address is support-Europe@gtt.net.

5. RMDCN Website

Tony Bakker discussed the status of the current website and the plans for migrating it to a new platform based on Confluence for the Static content. The dynamic content (configuration details, usages statistics and data flow details) would use an inhouse developed service. For the latter part users need to register through the ECMWF web registration mechanism to gain access. A demo showed the new website. ECMWF is working on a migration plan and will inform the community when the change will be implemented.

A discussion followed on the use of the RMDCN usage statistics by external website, e.g. some of the WIS monitoring pilot websites rely on URL's from the old RMDCN website. This was never endorsed by ECMWF. It was noted that all RMDCN User Sites have read-only SNMP access to the local RMDCN router statistics and can therefore provide these details to any WIS monitoring service. WMO would check the WIS monitoring service and any requirement for RMDCN usage statistics.

6. Status of the WIS

Rémy Giraud provided an update on the status of the WIS 2.0. WIS 2.0 embodies a fundamental shift in the approach used for data sharing: from data oriented GTS distribution to service oriented access via the Web. An outline implementation plan for WIS 2.0 is being developed.

7. Technical and Commercial Refresh 2

Tony Bakker introduced the actions for the second Technical and Commercial Refresh (TCR), which should be implemented in 2019. The same process will be followed as was done for the first TCR in 2016. GTT will make an initial offer by the end of 2018. ECMWF will use an external consultancy to review the offer and then depending on their feedback ECMWF will request a renewal offer. The process should be completed by summer 2019.

It was noted that a multicast service might still be a desirable option, but would depend on EUMETSATs requirements.

8. DMVPN / Iron A/B replacement with GTT Edge solution

Ahmed Benallegue presented the status of the DMVPN pilot and a possible replacement with Interoute /GTT Edge solution. The goal has always been to migrate the DMVPN pilot into an operational service. Due to various reasons, this has not materialized. The current DMVPN pilot service is at the end of its lifetime. Various equipment in use at both ECMWF and User sites have failed. These have not been replaced. One should consider stopping the DMVPN pilot altogether.

The Interoute Edge solution might provide a viable alternative for an operational DMVPN service. It is based on a commercial product called Silverpeak and has features like load balancing, intelligent routing at the application level, WAN optimisation and acceleration. However, since the takeover by GTT the status of the Interoute Edge product is unclear as GTT has their own product for this kind of service. ECMWF still would like to test the Edge solution and proposes a proof of concept project in a controlled environment. A timeline for this was presented and results would be presented at the next ROC.

9. The Future RMDCN

A short discussion on the future RMDCN resulted in various items that should be considered. Firstly, it was noted that the focus should be on RA VI requirements. The WIS 2.0 strategy will focus on the Internet and Web standards, hence sites outside RA VI currently connected to the RMDCN (especially GISCs) may slowly move towards a service via the Internet. Another issue that should be noted is to find a replacement of the DMVPN pilot service as the current solution is depreciated and ECMWF cannot make it into a production service. Also, a possible extension of the service should review the current TCR clause and seek improved conditions for a next TCR.

10. AOB

Davis Thomas asked if ECMWF was involved in the MHEWS project for South Eastern Europe. The ECMWF staff present were not aware of this project, as it was not really RMDCN related. Checking

on documents from previous ECMWF committee meetings, other ECMWF staff have been involved in this project.

11. Actions

- a) Dave Thomas was asked to check on the status of the WIS monitoring and what the future of this service is and any requirement on usage statistics from RMDCN sites.
- b) Dave Thomas was asked to provide an update on the MHEWS project (South-East European Multi-Hazard Early Warning System) and to see if there is any requirement for RMDCN involvement. (Sep 2019: It is understood that there is now a contractual agreement between ECMWF and the MHEWS project for support from ECWMF for the project. However, there is no direct link with the RMDCN for this.
- c) Tony Bakker to check if a letter of Authorization from Kazakhstan is required, for them to select a third party to act on their behalf with regards to the Accession Agreement (contractual and financial obligations).

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in September 2019. Locations and exact date would be communicated nearer the time.

It was agreed to have the next meeting in September 2019. Details of the venue and dates would be distributed nearer the time.