Minutes and Decisions of the Data Formats and Procedures Working Group Meeting in Metsovo, September 15, 2009

Start of the meeting: 19:00 hours

Several presentations were given about the CRD implementation (see agenda and the presentations included). These are:

- CRD implementation status by Randy Ricklefs
- Tracking Restrictions (update on station response) by Randy Ricklefs
- Implementing the new CRD data format by Magdalena Kuzmicz-Cieslak & Erricos Pavlis
- Validating the new CRD data format by Magdalena Kuzmicz-Cieslak & Erricos Pavlis
- EDC OC Activities on CRD implementation by Wolfgang Seemueller
- Consolidation of CDDIS/EDC directory structures by Carey Noll, presented by Randy Ricklefs

Another item was the mis-numbering of the REFLECTOR satellite (COSPAR and NORAD ID).

The following decisions and action items result from the DF&P WG meeting:

1. Randy Ricklefs will clarify the CRD manual wording about what needs to be in chronological order in the CRD files
2. The CRD data files in the EDC and CDDIS test directory should contain only stations validated by the OCs. This problem may already have been resolved. Julie Horvath will check on this.
3. The data centres' directory structures for data files for CRD data must be the same. Wolfgang Seemueller will add "/pub" to EDC's directory structure to make it consistent with CDDIS. This will be done via a link to avoid confusing those using the current structure.
4. The data file names and content for CRD data must be identical. It was decided that the most logical system is for files to contain passes taken on a certain data rather than those received on a certain date. Carey Noll (and Julie Horvath?) is asked to change the CDDIS procedures.
5. QC procedures must be identical at both OCs. Wolfgang Seemueller and Julie Horwath will work together to consolidate their procedures if not source code.
6. The REFLECTOR satellite ID number will be changed in the historical data to the correct number, and stations will be notified of the correct ID so they can update their database in case the satellite is ever observed again (assigned to Carey Noll).

7. Stations are to be reminded of the need to convert to the CRD data format by January 2010. Stations currently in the validation process are expected to be validated very soon, so the analysts will be ready for new stations (assigned to CB).
8. Full rate data for stations with 100 Hz pulse rate or less should be sent to the OCs/DCs for on-line storage at CDDIS and EDC. These files are to be exchanged by NASA and EDC OCs as are normal points. Matt Wilkinson is to work up numbers on full rate data volumes for kHz stations to determine whether it will be practical for those stations to send the DCs full rate data on DVD on a monthly basis. If DVDs are sent, they would be stored off line. Users needing this full rate data could request it from a DC rather than from the stations.
9. The next DF&P WG meeting will be held in Vienna during EGU in May 2010

Other comments:

The discussion about the DC files structures, file naming, and content pertain only to the CRD data. This gives the opportunity to change things without an enormous amount of efforts. The file names for the CRD data on the DC ftp sites have the same format, as is specified in the format manual. The directory structure, file names, and the content of the CRD files should be identical at both DCs CDDIS and EDC, which is not the case in the moment. Especially at EDC the files contain un-validated stations' data.

Some suggested that the DC be indicated in file names. While this suggestion has some merit, it would probably be preferable for the users to isolate files from each DC into it's own directory. Once files are merged for processing, information on the DC of origin is likely to be lost anyway. The emphasis should be on the DCs keeping the files' contents the same.

End of the meeting: 20:30 hours

Wolfgang Seemueller , Chair DF&P WG

Randy Ricklefs, Co-Chair DF&P WG