

3rd UK-ICOS Meeting

Adobe Connect web meeting

22nd July 10 – 11am BST

Meeting Convenor: Richard Sanders

Attendees:

Richard Sanders (National Oceanography Centre), Andrew Watson (University of Exeter), Jennifer Riley (National Oceanography Centre), Stephan Matthiesen (University of Edinburgh), Simon O'Doherty (University of Bristol), Kieran Stanley (University of Bristol), Eiko Nemitz (CEH), Andrew Manning (UEA), Claire Reeves (UEA), Naomi Greenwood (CEFAS), Alastair Manning (University of Bristol), Phil Nightingale (PML), Euan Nisbet (RHUL)

Apologies:

James Morrison, Matt Wilkinson (Forest Research)

Update on UK-ICOS activities

- Richard Sanders updated the community on the actions noted from the last UK-ICOS meeting (23/03/2015):
- A new member of staff has been recruited at NOC, Charlie Morgan who is responsible for specifically liaising with the shipping industry. He is organising a meeting at Lloyds Register in September 2015 to discuss opportunities for shipping companies and the science community in the future.
- ICOS central office will likely be happy for informal data submission to continue from stations, which may not be part of the formal member state ICOS submission. It is still unclear exactly what the different station levels (1, 2, Associate and Demonstration) terms and conditions are. Crudely the differences can be seen in the cost of submission to ICOS (Tables 1 and 2). Station contributions for Ecosystem and Atmospheric Stations are subdivided into Class 1 and Class 2. These classes will differ in the completeness of the measurements supported. This strategy aims to enhance

flexibility in including stations into the network. There is currently only one standard of station submission for the marine sector. The ecosystem sector also has an associated station classification. Any site classed as associated is not part of the ICOS network, but will be included in the ICOS database. Associated stations will be required to submit a full year of data, including key variables, full metadata and be compliant with ICOS data policy to maintain the ICOS Associate Status. The total subscription fees are composed of the annual subscription fee to the ICOS central office and the annual station cost (see tables 1 and 2 below).

Average annual predicted membership costs 2014 - 2018		Cost €	~ Cost £
Subscription Fee to ICOS central office (One fee per annum per member state)	Common Basic Contribution (Sharing 50% of the common costs between members)	€16,144.80	£11,267.82
	Common Gross National Income Based Contribution (Sharing 50% of the common costs as follows 3 year aggregated GNI (from EUROSTAT) expressed as a % of all members & observers)	€32516.60	£22,694.08
Total Average Subscription Fee Costs (Payable to ICOS central office)		€56,411.40	£39,371.90

Table 1 Average annual predicted membership costs 2014 - 2018

*Annual Station Contributions (A per station cost which will vary dependent sector and station classification)		Cost €	~ Cost £
Ecosystem	C1	€6,000.00	£4,187.54
	C2	€3,000.00	£2,093.77
	Associated	€1,500.00	£1,046.88
Atmosphere	C1	€9,500.00	£6,630.27
	C2	€7,500.00	£5,234.42
Ocean	C1	€7,500.00	£5,234.42

Table 2 Annual station contributions

- Current focus is on getting the UK to be a member of ICOS with a minimum number of stations. Therefore there has been limited time to look into procedures for adding further stations to the UK submission or what the implications for leaving ICOS might be.
- ERIC's are still quite new within Europe and as such the penalty for non-compliance with an ERIC is unclear.
- It is still unclear what the difference between a full and observing member is.
- A dialogue with other funding agencies is being initiated through participation in the next MSCC meeting.
- A response was submitted from NOC and University of Exeter to the NERC capital ideas call. Both submissions were number 1 in priority from both institution/university. There were also lots of ideas put forward on atmospheric composition measurements so it is possible that all of these will be grouped together and sent to BIS.

Presentation of MSCC report and community comments/input

Richard ran through the report and its rationale – to present a document detailing what UK-ICOS looks like in terms of its stations, community and funding situation. In particular he emphasised that this is not a document that will be directly requesting money but aiming to highlight the direction of travel for the UK-ICOS community to facilitate future funding discussions. MSCC is not necessarily the ideal platform to approach, as it is only marine focussed, however it is a starting point to approach a broad array of stakeholders and to help identify what aspects of the UK-ICOS system are and are not well funded.

The funding situation is fluid and continually changing. There is therefore a risk in presenting the stations in a ranked order as it may imply the lower ranked stations should not receive as much funding in the future. It was decided that it would be more prevalent to present stations as those for full ICOS submission and those for Associate ICOS submission.

ACTION: Edit appendix 2, removing the rankings and indicating either full or associate ICOS station only.

There is still some debate within the atmospheric sector as to which stations should be included as full ICOS stations. It was emphasised that there was no set deadline for finalising stations for ICOS submission and that the science community must be in control of the process and happy with the final decision. As such the report needs to reflect that the identification of full and associated ICOS status may change in the future, but that the general consensus is that submitting 4 full ICOS stations per sector will be optimal for the cost benefit of membership and scientific rigour.

ACTION: All communities, but the atmospheric in particular, to discuss offline which stations they wish to be submitted to ICOS. This discussion should be completed by October 2015.

ACTION: Add a footnote to Appendix 2 indicating that discussions as to the final station selection are still on going, but that it is anticipated that approximately 4 stations per sector will be proposed for submission to ICOS.

In its current form the report focuses heavily on CO₂ and does not mention CH₄, CO, or H. Small edits throughout the document could be made to ensure that a balanced view of ICOS GHG measurements are presented.

ACTION: Ensure that the report does not focus solely on CO₂ but is inclusive of other important GHG (CH₄, CO, H). Iterate changes with Euan Nisbett and Phil Nightingale.

Furthermore the report needs to more clearly mention the regional focus of ICOS (i.e. European not international) this will ensure that people external to ICOS, and those who have international interests are not either misled or feel underrepresented.

ACTION: Ensure that the regional focus of ICOS is clearly stated in the report.

The committee membership noted in Appendix 1 should be seen as fluid rather than fixed. Participation is self-selecting rather than by nomination or appointment. People should

represent their own, rather than institutional interests. The main remit of the committee is to produce documents, reports and have community sign off to show a vested interest and concerted direction of travel for UK-ICOS activities, both now and into the future.

The current funding status of the stations, presented in Appendix 3, needs additional information including in it. It is also critical that this information is accurate, wholly representative and comparable between stations. In its current form it is not clear what the costs for ICOS components of stations are, especially for larger stations where there are many measurements being made beyond the remit of ICOS. As such this additional information also needs to be included to allow stakeholders to understand that by continuing to fund stations as they have been doing, they will enable the UK to be a part of ICOS and leverage additional funding from the EU. In addition to this there should also be a short description of what each station is/does and measures (both within and externally to the ICOS system).

ACTION: Reconsider the presentation of appendix 3 making sure that the information requested from the community is clear and reflects both the total operational costs and the ICOS operational costs, indicating where the latter are not being met.

ACTION: Include a section in the appendices, which provides a station description and details the parameters measured. This should effectively be a narrative explaining, what it is, the funding, parameters measured etc.

ACTION: Members are requested to complete the information requested for the appendices of the report to MSCC and return by 3rd August.

To ensure that the complexity of the international ICOS programme is fully explained within the document the schematic detailing the organisation of ICOS produced in an earlier briefing note should also be included in the appendices.

ACTION: Include the schematic of the ICOS organisation in the appendices of the report to MSCC.

Scientific highlights have also been requested from the community. It is hoped to include these highlights in both the report to MSCC and the presentation delivered on the day.

ACTION: UK-ICOS community / station owners to provide key scientific highlights (text and figures) in a PowerPoint slide to Jennifer Riley by 3rd August.

Other stakeholder organisations to pitch UK-ICOS to

Andy Watson suggested that the Government Chief Scientific Advisor Sir Mark Walport would be another key stakeholder/contact to pitch UK-ICOS to, especially in light of the interest of long term observations expressed by the office.

Development of promotional material

It was widely agreed that production of a brochure to advertise the work and future direction of the UK-ICOS community would be beneficial. Emphasis should be placed on the scientific highlights of the UK-ICOS community within the brochure to make it appealing as possible. No details of funding and money should be included in the brochure.

ACTION: Develop a draft of the brochure by Nov 2015 for community comment and editing, encompassing the scientific highlights from the community.

Other discussions

It is likely that in the next year there will be a new EU H2020 call with a focus on the carbon cycle across all sectors. It is thought that this call will be closely related to ICOS work. As such interested UK parties could apply for funding.

Later this year there will likely be a new call from NERC for funding ideas. This call will be more structured than the last, focussing on either strategic or highlight topics. It is anticipated that if the idea is well written that it will get passed further into the NERC system for serious

consideration of funding. The UK-ICOS community may therefore be well placed to think of some strategic programme activities.

It is a priority to get the new ICOS website live.

The next UK-ICOS meeting should be in November / December time. The aim of this meeting will be to:

1. Review the development of the brochure and the information being presented in it
2. Discuss the presentation of operational costs of stations to be presented to stakeholders.

The overall goal will be to submit a request for funding to stakeholders/agencies towards the end of 2015/beginning of 2016.

The UK GHG programme is meeting in November (anticipated dates 2nd – 4th) in Edinburgh. This would be a suitable time and location to have the next UK-ICOS meeting.

ACTION: Liaise with Stephan Matthiesen to arrange the time and date of the next UK-ICOS meeting.

Appendix 1: Actions

Note the actions highlighted in red indicate where community input is needed.

Action
Edit appendix 2, removing the rankings and indicating either full or associate ICOS station only.
All communities, but the atmospheric in particular, to discuss offline, which stations they wish to be submitted to ICOS. This discussion should be completed by October 2015.
Add a footnote to Appendix 2 indicating that discussions as to the final station selection are still on going, but that it is anticipated that approximately 4 stations per sector will be proposed for submission to ICOS.
Ensure that the report does not focus solely on CO₂ but is inclusive of other important GHG (CH₄, CO, H). Iterate changes with Euan Nisbett and Phil Nightingale.
Reconsider the presentation of appendix 3 making sure that the information requested from the community is clear and reflects both the total operational costs and the ICOS operational costs, indicating where the latter are not being met.
Ensure that the regional focus of ICOS is clearly stated in the report.
Include a section in the appendices, which provides a station description and details the parameters measured.
Members are requested to complete the information requested for the appendices of the report to MSCC and return by 3rd August.
Include the schematic of the ICOS organisation in the appendices of the report to MSCC.
UK-ICOS community / station owners to provide key scientific highlights (text and figures) in a PowerPoint slide to Jennifer Riley by 3rd August.
Develop a draft of the brochure by Nov 2015 for community comment and editing.
Liaise with Stephan Matthiesen to arrange the time and date of the next UK-ICOS meeting.