

WIS Centre Jump-Start Offer

Consulting Visits of WIS Experts Available Now

Offer: Between September 2009 and June 2011, WIS (WMO Information System) experts offer 3-5 day consulting visits with any potential WIS Centre: National Centres (NCs), Data Collection or Production Centres (DCPCs), or Global Information System Centres (GISCs). The WIS experts can provide direct support at strategic, operational, or technical levels, meeting with the host's in-house staff, contractors, and/or technology providers. There is no charge for the WIS experts' time, although travel costs need to be arranged.

Objectives: The specific objectives of the visit will be agreed among the host and the invited experts. These objectives may include:

- Understanding of WIS vision, project plan, and technical specifications;
- Analysis report on any WIS operational issues for the candidate WIS Centre;
- New and/or revised metadata for collections or datasets specific to the candidate WIS Centre;
- Installed GeoNetwork opensource software, or advice on customizations to existing software, for WIS metadata maintenance and for Discovery Access and Retrieval (DAR) catalog search;
- Draft WIS Centre nomination documents;

Benefits: The hosts will receive expert advice and assistance on implementing WIS in their particular situation. In addition to satisfying commitments as WMO

Members, the implementation of WIS can support related broad-scale initiatives such as Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDIs), the Global Earth Observations System of Systems (GEOSS), or the international move to standards-based, all-hazards, all-media public alerting. WIS experts will focus on an incremental approach to WIS implementation, emphasizing "no regrets" investments wherein WIS implementation has local as well as global benefits.

Understanding WIS: Today's data and information systems used by WMO are complex in themselves, and extremely complex when viewed all together. WIS provides an architecture based on the idea that these diverse systems can be made interoperable without drastic redesign. The key to interoperability is the common agreement on a few standards such as metadata and service interfaces. During the visit, WIS experts can explain these key concepts of interoperability as they apply to particular cases.

WIS is being implemented in an evolutionary manner, with two parallel parts:

- Part A: Consolidation and improvement of the Global Telecommunications System (GTS) for time-critical and operation-critical data;
- Part B: Extension of services through flexible data Discovery, Access and Retrieval (DAR) services, as well as flexible timely delivery

WIS experts are conversant in Part A and in Part B and can discuss the implications of each in detail.

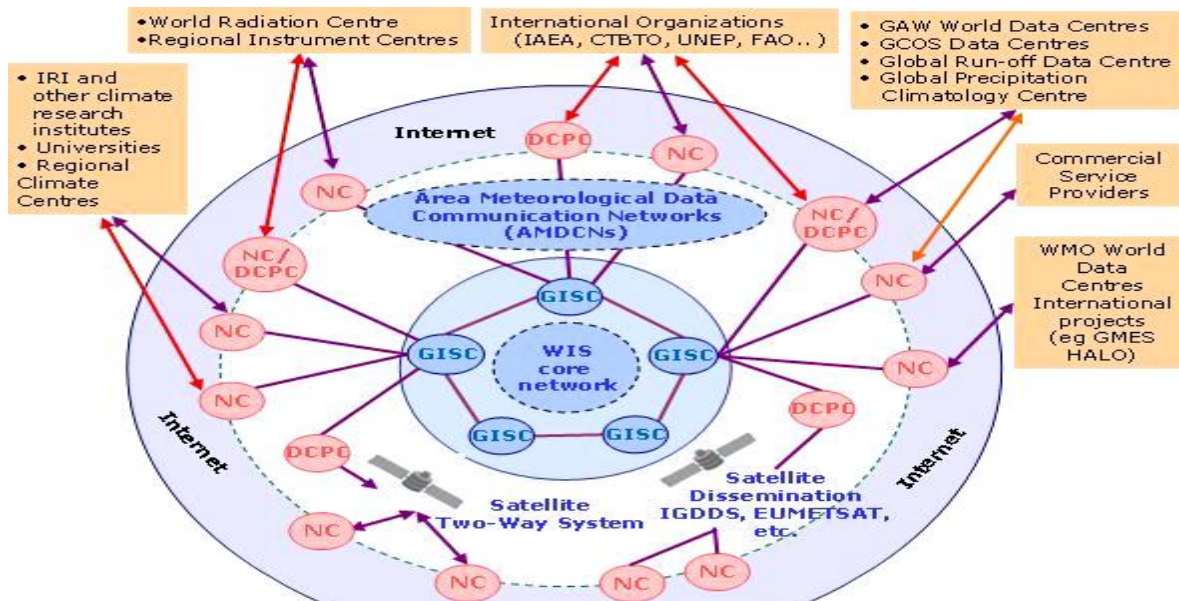


Diagram showing links among representative WIS Centres

Existing centres within WMO Member States may apply for designation as one of the three types of WIS Centers (GISC, DCPC, or NC). Designation requires statements of compliance with certain general criteria, functional requirements, and technical specifications. ¹ WIS experts can help prepare these statements according to procedures defined by the Expert Team on GISC and DCPC Demonstration Process (ET-GDDP), a subgroup of the Commission on Basic Systems (CBS).

Who are these WIS Experts? Four experts are available under this consulting offer:



*Geerd-Rüdiger Hoffman
David Thomas
Eliot Christian
Timo Pröschoidt*

Professor Geerd-Rüdiger Hoffman (Germany) - Chairman of the WMO

Inter-Commission Coordination Group on WIS (ICG-WIS); published relevant basic documents to define the scope of WIS.

David Thomas (WMO Secretariat) - WIS Project Manager; meteorologist with the Australian Bureau of Meteorology for over 25 years in many areas including operations and management; extensive experience in analyzing NMHS processes and their clients' operational systems, and aligning these for gaining optimal benefit from WMO services.

Eliot Christian (WMO Secretariat) - WIS Senior Scientific Officer; primary author of WIS Technical Specification; 30+ years in Information Technology including Global Information Locator Service, environmental systems, metadata, geospatial data; co-author of GEOSS architecture documents.

Timo Pröschoidt (WMO Secretariat) - WIS Professional Officer; Computer Scientist with 10 years background in Systems Integration, Application Development, Databases and Internet Technologies. Geonetwork developer. Can give Workshop in DE/EN/FR/ES.

To Schedule a Visit:

If you want to have one or more of the WIS experts visit your site to help with candidate WIS Centres, please contact David Thomas (dthomas@wmo.int).

In general, requests will be considered on a first in basis, with priority to proposals that are coordinated with requests from others. WMO Members are also asked to consider sponsoring requests from developing and least developed countries, through contributions to the WIS trust fund.

Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA)

"Under limited time and support at KMA Eliot made great achievements that inspired us in many aspects, not only for WIS and GEOSS but also for other IT expertise with his excellent knowledge and experience over diverse disciplines. We are very proud of participating in WIS pilot project with his initiatives in WAMIS implementation. We do hope to have another opportunity to work with WIS expert team near future"

Byong-Lyol Lee,
Senior Scientist in Agricultural Meteorology, KMA

Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD)

"We would like to thank WMO for sending Timo to the SRU workshop. We are now running the software he helped us developing on our production GISC. This really saved us a lot of money.

Markus Heene,
Project Manager WIS, DWD

World Meteorological Center (WMC), Washington

"This is a tremendous opportunity to advance your organization's transition to WIS. WMC/RTH Washington recently hosted a consulting technical visit. Within two days technical staff with the assistance of Elliot Christian (WIS Senior Scientific Officer) had an operating Discovery, Access & Retrieval (DAR) service Portal with initial metadata files loaded and available for access by users. This was the kick off of a Demonstration Project that will provide the basis for full WIS implementation. The visit was also especially valuable to help technical Managers understand and plan the next steps to full WIS implementation."

Fred Branski, U.S. National Weather Service
and President of WMO CBS

¹ Key documents include: the WIS Project and Implementation Plan (v1.0), the WIS Functional Architecture (v1.0), the WIS Compliance Specifications GISC, DCPC, NC (v1.1), and the Designation Procedures for GISC and DCPC. These are at: http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/WIS/ref_docs_en.html