GMRT-AusSeabed Steering Committee

Meeting no. 1: 26th May 2021, 11:00-12:30, Online

Notes prepared by Kimberlee Baldry and Kim Picard

Attendees: Kim Picard (Geoscience Australia), Robert Kay (Geoscience Australia), Paul Branson (University of Western Australia /CSIRO), Eric Schulz (Bureau of Meteorology); Kerry Levett (Australian Research Data Commons), Kimberlee Baldry (Geoscience Australia)

Apologies: None

Meeting Overview

Actions list

Table 1. Action list with new actions raised during this Steering Committee meeting (SC.1)

|	Action	Responsible Party	Date for Completion	Comments/Status
SC1.1	Kim Picard to finalise the ARDC progress report and submit to ARDC.	KP	June 2021	Completed and submitted to ARDC
SC1.2	Kimberlee Baldry to send out meeting invitations for future meetings	KB	July 2021	
SC1.3	Aero to invite SC at QPI showcase, include siobhann.mccafferty@ardc.edu.au	KB	June 2021	
SC1.4	Kimberlee to add Joshua, project tech lead, to next SC meetings.	KB	July 2021	

Meeting minutes

*Meeting opened 1105*

Introduction

Welcome

- The meeting opened with an Acknowledgment of Country.

- Individual introduction of steering committee (SC) members

    o Kerry Levett (KL) from Australian Research Data Commons. She is the Platforms Program Manager and will provide a link between the ARDC and the GMRT-AusSeabed project.

    o Robert Kay (RK) from Geoscience Australia. He has a background in GIS and has been working on ELVIS, an elevation data delivery system. He hopes his experience with ELVIS can help steer GMRT-AusSeabed from lessons learnt.

    o Eric Schulz from Bureau of Meteorology. He looks after ocean models within BoM and has a background in observation oceanography. Eric is represents the end-user group on the SC and expressed is support for the project due to its high potential uses, making end user job a lot easier.

    o Paul Branson from the University of Western Australia/CSIRO. He is a coastal oceanographer and also represents the end-user. He uses bathymetry data in ocean models across a number of applications.

    o Kim Picard is the Project Manager for the GMRT-AusSeabed project. She is the Program Lead for AusSeabed at Geoscience Australia.

Overview of the Project

Kim Picard presented an overview of the project, which is one component of the AusSeabed work plan. The aim of the project is to collect datasets, store them and create compilations using the best bathymetry data available for a particular use. The project is arranged into three components 1) End-user analysis 2) Bass strait data compilation and 3) the development of the GMRT-AusSeabed Platform and user tools. The project will build on the GMRT technology born out of Lamont Doherty Earth Observation in Columbia University. The project aims to enhance the ability of end-users to define the datasets that get used in a GMRT bathymetry compilation by allowing the user to control the parameters (e.g. resolution and uncertainty) they want the bathymetry compilation to be based on. Kim presented a detailed overview of the proposed workflow below:
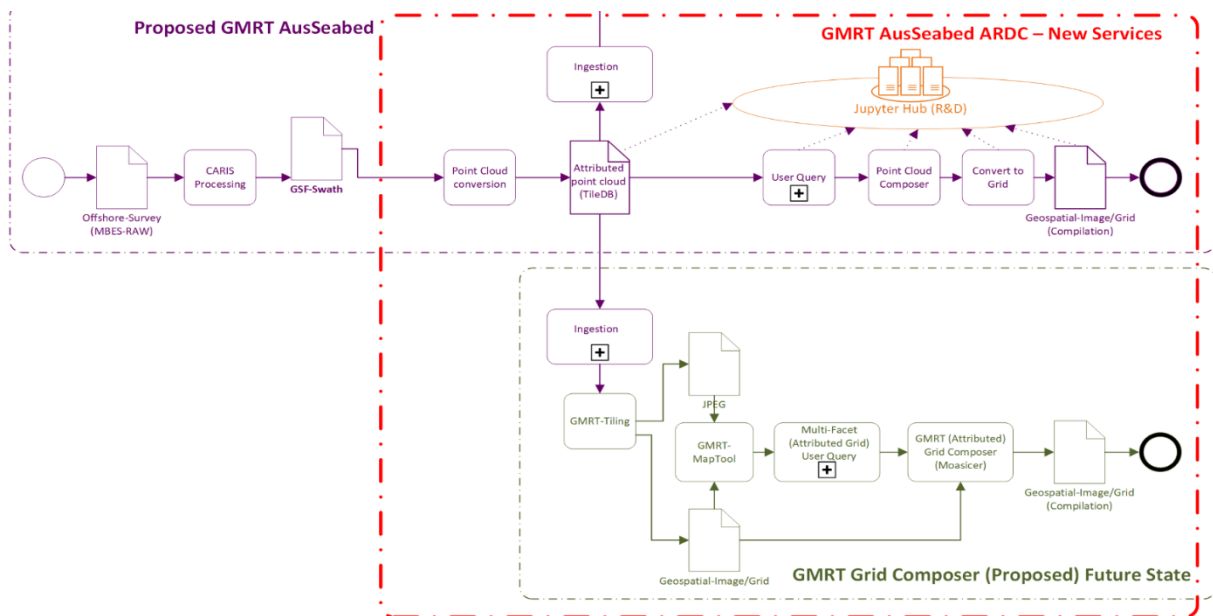
The timeline for the project is outlined below:
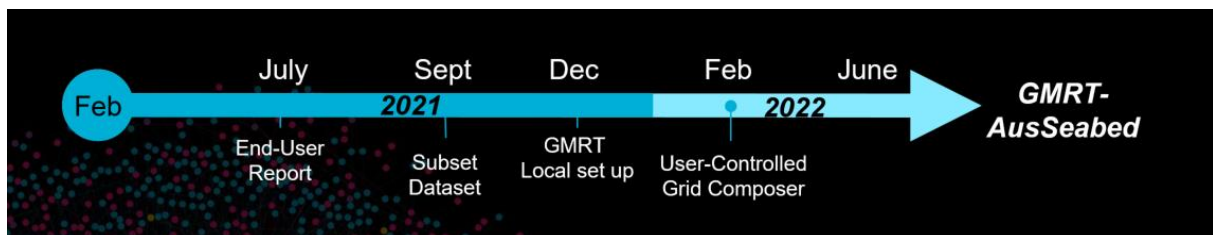
The project will be reported against four Key Performance Indicators:

KPI 1: Subset test datasets delivered to GA in a timely fashion for model development
KPI 2: Projects artefacts published on AusSeabed in a timely fashion
KPI 3: Platform tested by key users returning positive and constructive feedbacks
KPI 4: Platform code published to GitHub in a timely fashion

The committee then entered in a very engaged session of questions and answers:

- How many organisations are being paid to work on the program

  - There are six partners: Geoscience Australia, Bureau of Metrology, Deakin University, James Cook University, Lamont Doherty Earth Observation group, CSIRO, Australian Antarctic Division.

- Kim noted to the SC that AusSeabed is now under a Collaborative Head Arrangement amongst its Executive Board and so we should probably acknowledge AusSeabed somehow as the co-contribution is made possible through the arrangement. Kim indicated that acknowledgements in this regards is still being worked out with the EB and Kim will provide a position after the next EB meeting in August. Importantly, Kerry acknowledged that this can be done and will wait on Kim to report in due course.

- In the development diagram, what do plus signs mean and how will the technical workload be spread across the two organisations (LDEO and GA)?

  - The plus signs indicate that this is a process of its own as opposed to a single task. It highlights where significant internal processes are yet to be fully defined (Answer sought after meeting).

  - Tile DV is still being assessed for ingestion into GMRT.

  - In terms of workload spreading, LDEO will control the ingestion level and GA will control the composer.

- What are the risk seen at the moment?

  - GMRT platform is old and being upgraded slowly. We need to make sure that we can use what exists, which focuses on grid inputs, but develop the capability to use point-cloud/source data to ensure the platform is future proof.

Role of the Steering Committee

The role of the Steering Committee is to assess the project performance, project sustainability and risk. Project performance will be reported against KPI's. The project will be assessed against quarterly reports provided to the SC by the project manager (KP). The SC will provide timely feedback on these quarterly reports. The SC is required to deliver 6-monthly reports to the ARDC to report on progress.

- It was noted that KPI #3 can be modified to take into account negative feedback and what we can to incorporate this feedback. KP agrees.

- The SC endorse quarterly occurrence of meetings. A quarterly update should be provided to the SC 1 week prior to the meeting. If there are larger issues foreseen, the SC requires an extended period of time for issues to be flagged in order to assess solutions before the quarterly SC meeting. The SC also agrees that if needed an intersessional meeting can be called to discuss a risk that need immediate discussion.

- Makes sure updated TEAMS links are used for content.

Progress Update

Kim Picard presented the progress update to the Steering Committee. In general everything is tracking well.

The following questions were raised

- How are we managing workshops around COVID?

- o The project team is trying face-to-face, but so far have been run on-line. The team is t to host the training/uptake session planned for early 2022 in-person as it sees the most value in using this approach.

- For future reports, SC recommends that we put the date due to start instead of n/a when progress has not started. For efficiency and clarity, the detailed project plan spreadsheet should be used with colour based on progress, rather than starting a new table to minimise effort. Explain issues within the spreadsheet.

Action SC1.1 Kim Picard to finalise the ARDC progress report and submit to ARDC.

Risk and Performance

The Steering Committee engaged in a discussion around project risks and the future performance of the project. This included personnel management, project after-life, managing the scope of the project and managing user expectations. There was also some discussion on how the project aligns with the AusSeabed work plan and other the international efforts.

- What are the key pieces of work that have associated risks

    - o Dataset (Component 2) timeline might bleed. However, we don't see this as a risk for getting testing done for the Platform.

    - o Platform (Component 3): We need to assess how many of the attributes can be captured for the data to be queried and added to the composer. All of the development of the platform sits with GA and LDEO. The risk will be managed between the two development teams.

    - o GMRT platform is old and being upgraded slowly. We need to make sure that we can use what exists, which focuses on grid inputs, but develop the capability to use point-cloud/source data to ensure the platform is future proof.

    - o Overall there is a risk that at the end of the project, users won't be satisfied. We need to find a way to communicate what progress we have achieved and we need to manage expectations of users, as well as check in with what they expect.

- Has the dev team been established?

    - o We have a new developer, Josh, who has satellite data processing background and will bring a new perspective, as well as John, from LDEO GMRT team. No real personnel risk.

- What will happen to the data after the project conclusion? Is it going to be hard to extend the project to use the current data AusSeabed has?

    - o Data and metadata haul to grow the area for which the tool will be applicable to is part of the AusSeabed Data Hub work plan. In term of platform/tool development, AusSeabed is using learnings from this project to apply more broadly to the operational AusSeabed Data Hub. Considering that this ARDC Platforms project will

provide a prototype, we need to make sure that we limit scope creep and use it to plan the next phase. Funding of continuation of work will be the responsibility of AusSeabed.

- What is the plan if things start slowing down and have trouble getting things done?

  - The option for an A/B plan will be developed by September as part of Milestone 7. By this time we will know which road to take and what the tool looks like.

- Is the tool planned to continue after the project and who will look after this and pay for the maintenance costs?

  - The tool is valuable to AusSeabed and will be continued within the AusSeabed Program.

  - It was noted by Kerry that ARDC funding model is going to change, so future funding for the project after-life may not be able to be sourced from ARDC.

- KL noted that ARDC is going to help by running a series of workshops on sustainability. This includes managing communications and having a sustainable business model. KL confirms that it sounds like the project leads are already thinking about the right things so far, regarding risk and project sustainability.

- Will the final platform sit with Australia or will it sit under the international effort?

  - AusSeabed aims to eliminate duplication. AusSeabed owns our hub and this hub can be linked to international hubs. However, this is still a large unknown and efficiencies still need to be identified in order to make decision.

Technical questions from the SC

- Is there any interface with open data cube, Jupiter Hubs or DEA datasets? Is it leveraging this investment?

  - SC pointed out that if data is going to AWS, then the Jupiter Hub should probably go here to minimise cost from data egress charges.

  - Presently the Jupiter hub capability will be for internal use, but there is potential that it could be used externally.

  - Johnathan Smile at ARDC had initiated the interactive analytics project. ARDC may run an instance of Jupiter Hub in AWS, so may not need to set up another instance. It will be a national service.

This section should be noted with the Component 3 technical team

Next meeting

The next meeting will be in August 2021.

Action SC1.2 Kimberlee Baldry to send out meeting invitations for future meetings

Other Actions

- Kim invited the SC to our quarterly showcases. The steering committee confirmed they would like to be added to the list.

- Kim raised the communications schedule and communications plan and invited future feedback.

- The lead developer (Joshua Sixsmith) should be invited along to future meetings to help answer technical questions.

Action SC1.3 Aero to invite SC at QPI showcase, include siobhann.mccafferty@ardc.edu.au

Action SC1.4 Kimberlee to add Joshua, project tech lead, to next SC meetings.

Meeting closed 1220