



Plan for a series of meetings between Argo suppliers and European users

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Date:

Euro-Argo Research Infrastructure Sustainability and Enhancement Project (EA RISE Project) - 824131

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Dear colleagues, including Argo commercial suppliers, and partners in Euro-Argo RISE

This letter announces a series of 1-hour online meetings, starting on Wednesday 10 Nov, in which the European Argo community can meet commercial suppliers of Argo floats and sensors. Each meeting will feature one supplier, and as many users as care to join.

Work Package 8.3 in the Euro-Argo RISE EU-funded project recognises the importance of links between the Argo community and the commercial suppliers of floats and sensors. I will loosely refer to the Argo community as 'users' of Argo equipment, but this includes scientists, engineers, data managers, program managers and anyone else involved in implementing Argo.

To a certain extent links with suppliers are in good shape: many of the commercial suppliers attend the trade exhibitions, such as the recent Ocean Business in Southampton, and participate in international Argo meetings and workshops, such as the recent online Deep and BGC workshop, and past technical workshops. We have also had technical presentations at Euro-Argo Science meetings.

However, not all the Argo users and partners have had the opportunity to participate in these meetings, and so they haven't had the opportunity to establish and develop the personal links and direct interaction with contacts within the suppliers. It is these personal links that often are the springboard for innovations in technology, or for a user to adopt a technology they were previously unfamiliar with or hesitant about.

We will therefore hold a series of online meetings whose purpose is to strengthen the relationships between Argo suppliers and users. The first round of meetings will be arranged for European users. If the meetings prove to be useful, we could expand future meetings to full international participation. For the suppliers, I hope the meetings will enable you to make personal contacts with individual users/institutions where you presently have none, and I hope we can also provide you with a consolidated European perspective on some aspects of Argo.

My suggestion for such meetings would be that they are short, initially one hour, so that the burden of preparation and participation is kept as light as possible. We will have a simple agenda, and I give an example below. The purpose is not to enter into a detailed technical discussion in these meetings. The purpose is to provide a forum in which users can meet with suppliers and discover areas of common interest. Users and suppliers can then use their newly-boosted links to arrange their own meetings to follow up any matters arising.

If the first round of meetings proves to be useful, we may repeat the cycle, for example at 6-month intervals. This would provide a regular forum for updates from suppliers and users, and enable new players in Argo to get rapidly drawn into partnerships.



We will make a start with a series of meetings before the end of the year. I initially suggest one session per week on Wednesdays, afternoon in Europe and morning in the USA.

The Argo suppliers where I know there are already contacts among European partners are (in alphabetical order !)

MRV (floats)

NKE (floats)

RBR (sensors)

SeaBird (floats and sensors)

Teledyne (floats)

The next few available Wednesdays would be

10 Nov	RBR
17 Nov	To be decided
24 Nov	To be decided
1 Dec	To be decided
15 Dec	To be decided

(8 Dec – Not available, Argo DMT)

All five of the suppliers listed above have agreed to join the series of meetings.

We will start with RBR on 10 November. The others are working out which dates they can make. We should have a full timetable soon.

We will start with the following timing, and see how it works out:

0730-0830 UTC-8

1030-1130 UTC-5

1530-1630 UTC

1630-1730 UTC+1

Although we could change the timing for a specific meeting if we needed to.

Connection details are provided below.



A typical skeleton **agenda** might be:

- 1) (10 min) Introductions, by users and suppliers
- 2) (10 min) Short presentations by suppliers. These could be used to highlight any recent technical things that suppliers are working on, or innovations they expect to be coming online in the next 6 to 12 months. By the end of it, users should have an idea of who or how to approach the supplier if they want to follow up.
- 3) (20 min) Questions and contributions from users. If users know in advance that they have things to ask, advance notice should enable good use to be made of the time. This could be technical questions about hardware, or comments or questions about data, firmware, software, metadata, etc. It might include users describing requirements that they would like to see met in the future. The community of users here is likely to include scientists, engineers involved in receiving and deploying floats, and data managers. The range may cover existing 'endorsed' Argo missions and parameters (Core, BGC, Deep) or pathways to innovations.
- 4) (20 min) Further discussion
- 5) The meeting would formally close after 1 hour. We could leave the zoom room open for another hour in case any participants want to stay for further discussion.

We will certainly not put every question to bed in the time available. In the past we have had technical workshops lasting 2 days that left questions unresolved. But we should be able to establish relationships that have momentum and enable the most important questions to be identified and pursued afterwards.

If users already know you have questions for suppliers, or suppliers for users, let us know in advance and we will make sure they get worked into the discussion.

Regards

Brian King and partners of Euro-Argo RISE project task 8.3

**Connection details and practical information**

We will use Zoom for the meeting. Using the Zoom application instead of the web browser might provide enhanced results.

There will a waiting room.

Please rename yourself (First Name, Last Name, Institute) when joining the meeting.

Please mute your microphone when not speaking.

You may use the chat to comment and ask questions.

During discussions, if you want to talk use the « raise hand » tool on Zoom.

Connection link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86861098961?pwd=WmVHZUUydm5Najljd1ZySUJmVXN2Zz09>

meeting ID : 868 6109 8961

Password : 430764

If you have any issues during the meeting, please contact: contact@euro-argo.eu