Outcomes of the WP06 - 07 IT TEAM meeting

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WP6 and WP7 held a meeting in Utrecht just before Christmas to plan in detail the development work (a) between now and the meeting in March 2017 in Prague; (b) between then and end-September 2017 ready for (1) evaluation (2) progressive takeover by the ICS production team. After some coordination and planning teams worked on various aspects of the ICS architecture and important decisions were taken, particularly concerning the user interface design, the AAAI (security system), the catalog and associated processing (loading / converting metadata from the TCSs supplied as DDSS (Data, Data Products, Software, Services) and responding to queries). The API (Application Programming Interface) work is progressing to defining a set of APIs for use by other components of the architecture. There was discussion of planning for the workflow aspects of the ICS and also the interfaces to ICS-D (Distributed ICS facilities such as supercomputers) and CES (Computational Earth Science) planned for later in 2017.

The original small team has now at last been supplemented by additional recruits who - of course - need training. However, the available person-effort is now more commensurate with the task although the planned schedule was delayed quite severely because of lack of personnel in 2016. We are running an agile development method using ‘sprints’ and regular teleconferences to ensure (a) progress; (b) coordination.

The catalog is designed and loading of the supplied metadata can now commence. This will encourage ICS-TCS interactions to clarify any misunderstandings or mismatches of the DDSS to the catalog specification. In parallel ICS has been engaging with the governance, financial and legal groups to understand what they need to be recorded in the catalog to manage the non-functional aspects of EPOS-ICS.