



soil moisture
cci



Invitation to the CCI Soil Moisture Round Robin Exercise

Dear colleague,

It is our pleasure to invite you to participate in the AMSR-E/ASCAT soil moisture retrieval round robin exercise. This exercise will be performed within the framework of the Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Soil Moisture project funded by the European Space Agency (ESA).

The goal of the round robin is to encourage the active participation of the international community in CCI soil moisture activities. Any interested group can participate and develop L2 soil moisture algorithms based on the material contained in the Round Robin data package. The Round Robin evaluation will be carried out by members of the CCI soil moisture project consortium.

This Round Robin exercise is a public and open process, which benefits from the knowledge of the research community that works with soil moisture data sets. Consequently, the soil moisture CCI project welcomes every researcher and institution with the will to participate and contribute with their algorithms to this exercise. Concerning the details about the goals and design of the round robin experiment, please refer to the *Round Robin Protocol* that can be downloaded from the CCI Soil Moisture project website at: <http://www.esa-soilmoisture-cci.org/>, where you can also find more information about the project.

This round robin exercise is primarily science-driven. Our aim is to cooperate with all round robin participants by gaining new insights into the behaviour of different soil moisture retrieval algorithms. We also plan to jointly publish all relevant results in international peer-reviewed journals. Additionally, the outcomes of the round robin exercise will be brought to the attention of the Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment (GEWEX), Terrestrial Observation Panel for Climate (TOPC), and the CEOS Land Product Validation (LPV) team.

The deadline of the **delivery of the Level 2 retrievals** will be on the **30th November 2012** and the **feedback of the results** will be given to the participants in **February 2013**.

The Round Robin exercises are managed by the project partner GeoVille. All input, output, validation data and documentation are fully accessible after informal registration per email. Please contact Eva Haas via haas@geoville.com to state your willingness to participate. You will then get a login for a secure FTP site where all required data can be accessed.

The only requirement for new participants to join the round robin is to hand in an ATBD (Algorithm Theoretical Baseline Document) or a relevant publication/report containing a brief description of the algorithm used (the template will be provided at registration). This is required to support a clear analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of various retrieval techniques and approaches.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Wolfgang Wagner (Project science leader)
On behalf of the CCI Soil Moisture Project Team

Eva Haas (Project manager)