

Minutes of meeting

Scientific Committee meeting SC(M)03-2023

Wednesday, 22 February 2023 (10h00 to 16h30)

Eurocontrol, Brussels

Item 1. Welcome & review of actions

The SC Chair, TBO, welcomed all participants to the third meeting of the SESAR 3 JU Scientific Committee (SC).

TBO and LCR reviewed the list of actions from the previous meeting.

PHO and LCR asked to have one AoB on the outcome of the DES Call 1, after the discussion on the DES ER-2 Call Technical Specifications.

Item 1. Conclusions:

Not applicable.

Item 2. SIDs – Special Issue publication

DSC, the SIDs Programme Committee chair, provided a follow-up presentation on the results of the SIDs 2022 survey and on the discussion on SIDs 2022 special issue.

The last edition of the SIDs in Budapest had 417 registered participants, which confirms an increasing trend (without considering the virtual editions). The post-event survey got 52 responses.

81 papers were submitted and 51 selected for presentation (63% acceptance rate, very good quality).

The overall feedback received from the survey is positive, in line with the previous editions (excluding the virtual ones) or better; the only area where not positive comments were received was the poster session (compared to the virtual events), maybe there is the need for the SESAR 3 JU to improve this aspect for the next editions.

SBA noted that in other congresses/events, participants are requested to fill in the online survey before the end of the event, and they may get a symbolic prize, maybe this is something the SESAR 3 JU could consider to increase the number of survey respondents.

After recalling the advantages and disadvantages of publishing in open journals (e.g. it is free of charge, it is in line with the Commission's mandate of open research, data and publications, but new journals don't have an Impact Factor), DSC presented the results of his survey amongst the authors of the SIDs 2022 papers linked to the question *"Could you please let me know what you think and whether you would accept to publish in an open journal"*, where almost 90% of authors declared their willingness to publish in open journals.

He also mentioned the Journal of Open Aviation Science (published by University of Delft) as a possible candidate (he already asked Delft to use this open journal, first feedback was positive), but there is the need to further check whether the Journal is up and running. TBO mentioned another journal from University of Delft, the European Journal of Transport and Infrastructure Research (they have an Impact Factor).

As a way forward, DSC and the SC members agreed to organise an internal meeting (WebEx) to select one open journal, after having received the required clarifications from University of Delft.

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In fact, the SC has a favourable opinion regarding the possibility to go for publications in an open journal (with low expectation for the first few years, but building the journal is always a process that takes long). For the SIDs 2023, one possibility could be to assign a DOI to each accepted paper (to be investigated if the new Knowledge Transfer Network project can do it).

Item 2. Conclusions:

SIDs 2022 survey showed positive feedback regarding the event organisation and logistics, with one less favourable opinion on the poster session. There is an increasing positive trend of participants and papers submitted.

The SC members are in favour of publishing a SIDs Special Issue paper in an open journal, and are identifying candidate journals.

Item 3. Information session with SESAR 3 JU Finance

IFI provided a presentation on the rules for reimbursement of expenses for the SC members, with focus on reimbursable and non-reimbursable travel costs, the required documents to claim the costs and the reimbursement process.

Some clarifications were requested by the SC members, mainly regarding the use of taxi, and the accommodation and daily allowances.

IFI took the action to clarify internally and come back to the SC members with answers and a consolidated procedure.

Item 3. Conclusions:

The SESAR 3 JU will discuss internally how to improve and expedite the reimbursement process while complying with the Commission rules, in view of the comments received.

Item 4. ER2 Tech Specs

AGO presented the approach followed by the SESAR 3 JU to draft the Technical Specifications for the DES ER-02 Call to be launched at the end of June 2023, focusing on three parallel activities carried on: coverage vs the ER-01 Call and relevant gap analysis, inputs from the S2020 ER4 Call results and recommendations, new innovative ideas linked to the ATM SRIA.

A first draft of the Specs was sent to the SC members for comments at the end of January, comments were received by the SESAR 3 JU to allow the issue of a second version of the Specs, taking into account also the comments received from DMSC, EASA and EDA.

The SC members have time till March 15 to provide the SESAR 3 JU with any additional comments.

The presentation was followed by a discussion on the content and allocation of topics per flagship and per WA.

PHE, as representative of the Scientific Community in the GB, and TBO as SC chair, stated that the process followed by the SESAR 3 JU was clear and the content of the Specs is in line with the SC expectations. This comment was supported also by the other SC members.

ABO stated that he would be pleased to receive from the SC members a strategic view on the exploratory research in the long term, highlighting the SC opinion on whether the SESAR 3 JU approach is correct, on how to organise research priorities without leaving behind good ideas, whether it'd be useful/effective to be more prescriptive on a certain topic/flagship, etc.

TBO replied that it'd be interesting for the SC to receive an overview of the results of ER-01 Call, not only in terms of proposals moved to the GAP phase, but in terms, for example, of how many proposals were received per topic per WA.

JBE reminded that in the previous S2020 SC, discussions took place on the possibility of being more prescriptive in ER Calls, but eventually the recommendation was to leave the Calls quite open in terms of scope, especially for Fundamental Research.

Item 4. Conclusions:

The SC expressed a positive feedback regarding the process and the content of the ER-02 Call Technical Specifications. This message will be passed on to the GB during the meeting in March.

The SESAR 3 JU will provide more information on the outcome of the ER-01 Call in order to allow the SC members to elaborate their long-term strategic view on exploratory research.

Item 5. Young Scientist Award rules and plan for this year

For the benefit of the SC members who were not involved in the previous S2020 Scientific Committee, PHE provided a verbal debrief on the SC contribution to the YSA evaluation of applications.

A discussion on the opportunity to set a threshold for the evaluation criteria for the YSA 2023 edition followed, resulting in the decision to set it at 70, for both PhD and Student categories, as minimum score to recommend the SESAR 3 JU ED to shortlist applications.

The SESAR 3 JU took the action to clarify the method for engaging SC member volunteers for their effort in evaluating the YSA applications.

JBE proposed that, differently from the previous SC set up where the YSA evaluators were always the same, in this new SC it could be preferable to have different members in the evaluation panel every year, following a rotating method maintaining some continuity of the panel while allowing for changes in the perspectives. The proposal was supported by the other SC members.

Item 5. Conclusions:

The SC members are individually willing to continue supporting the SESAR 3 JU in the evaluation of the YSA applications, provided that a mechanism for their effort reimbursement can be set up by the SESAR 3 JU.

Item 6. Open data task force

TBO provided a presentation to discuss with the other SC members the possibility to establish a Task Force on "Open Data".

After setting the scene with the problem statement [i.e. data are needed by all the exploratory research projects, many data sources and content are often considered confidential and cannot be shared, it takes a long time to obtain data (up to six months and more)], TBO presented the state-of-the-art for several different sets of data, i.e. flight data, schedule data, airspace and airport capacity data, passenger itineraries and fares, MET data, etc. She also presented some existing initiatives, at European or national level, for supporting the implementation of the mobility data space.

Possibilities and way forward were discussed among the SC members, including, for example, the creation of a thematic challenge on open data within the new Knowledge Transfer Network, the possibility to contact the Pj coordinators of the DES-01 Call projects to understand their needs in terms of data (e.g. collect requirement,

create synergies, etc.).

The SC members agreed that, even if a short-term solution is not achievable, the work of the Task Force could support future SESAR 3 JU projects in their execution.

The issue of data storage was raised, this will be further discussed during the Task Force work. One option could be to link this activity to the existing Engage SESAR 3 JU wiki, to have a centralised point of access to data without having to rely on servers and databases from the individual projects.

PHE, JBE and RAR volunteered to be part of this Task Force together with TBO.

TBO will coordinate the SC members to prepare a work plan, including Engage 2 and key players.

Item 6. Conclusions:

The need to secure access to many different datasets linked to aviation research is acknowledge at SC level, as well the actual difficulties to do so. The SC agreed to establish a Task Force on “Open Data” to start investigating solutions for the future SESAR 3 JU projects, not only at the exploratory research level and to consider the role of the new KTN in this task.

Item 7. Experimental plan feedback

For the benefit of the SC members who were not involved in the previous S2020 Scientific Committee, RSO provided a verbal debrief on the Experimental Plan that the previous SC delivered to the SESAR 3 JU with the recommendation to be used by exploratory research projects as a set of good practices when preparing the experimental/validation activities.

LCR informed the SC members that, in SESAR 3, all the exploratory research projects will have, as contractual deliverables, an experimental plan (ERP) and report (ERR). Template definition for these deliverables is on-going within the SESAR 3 JU.

In order to not overlap the activities, the SC members agreed to postpone the discussion to the next SC meeting.

Item 7. Conclusions:

The SESAR 3 JU will provide the SC members with an update of the preparation of the ERP and ERR template and will consider the possibility to involve the SC members in their preparation.

Item 8. Performance Task Force

For the benefit of the SC members who were not involved in the previous S2020 Scientific Committee, TBO provided a presentation on the achievements of the PERF Task Force.

She also highlighted the need to get more insight on the status of the recommendations raised by the Task Force to the SESAR 3 JU.

The presentation was well received by the SC members, who also agreed that the kick-off of the new projects in charge of the Transversal activities should be waited to liaise directly with them on any potential follow-up.

FNE and RAR volunteered to support TBO in this task.

Item 8. Conclusions:

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The opportunity to follow-up on the work and the recommendations raised by the previous SC PERF Task Force was recognised by the SC members. The SESAR 3 JU will support the members in liaising with the new SESAR 3 Transversal projects, to be kicked off in the coming months.

Item 9. AOB and close of the meeting

The AoB on the outcome of the DES-01 Call was presented by LCR and PHO after agenda item 4. Information on number of proposals received and moved to GAP phase were provided, both for ER and IR, along with an overview of the expected next steps till Grant signature.

TBO closed the meeting thanking all for their participation.

Signature of the Chairperson



Annex I – List of participants

MEMBERS

Arnaldo Rosa (RAR)

Bagassi Sara (SBA)

Besada Juan (JBE)

Bolic Tatjana (TBO)

Delahaye Daniel (DDE)

Hecker Peter (PHE)

Malakis Efstathios (SMA)

Netjasov Fedja (FNE)

Somogyi Rita (RSO)

SESAR 3 JU

Andreas Boschen – SESAR 3 JU Executive Director (ABO)

Alfredo Gomez – SESAR 3 JU Senior Expert – Release Management & Validation (AGO)

Peter Hotham – SESAR 3 JU Deputy Executive Director (PHO)

Luca Crecco – SESAR 3 JU Programme Officer (LCR)

Ivana Filipovska – SESAR 3 JU Financial Assistant (IFI)

GUESTS

Dirk Schaefer – EUROCONTROL – SIDs Programme Committee Chair (DSC)

Annex II - List of actions

Please note that closed actions from SC-01 and SC-02 meetings have been removed from the list.

| Actions | Responsibility | Description | Due Date | Status |
|---------|----------------|---|-------------------------|--------|
| SC02/04 | SC members | SC members willing to be members of SIDs PC to contact the PC Chair on individual basis | Beginning of March 2023 | Open |
| SC02/09 | SC members | To get in contact with University of Delft and have an internal discussion on which Open Journal is suitable for issuing a SIDs paper | March 2023 | Open |
| SC03/01 | SC members | Poll the ER projects on the usefulness of the Experimental plan material. | April 2023 | Open |
| SC03/02 | SESAR 3 JU | To provide the SC members with a clear procedure for reimbursement of costs. | asap | Open |
| SC03/03 | SC members | To send to the SESAR 3 JU comments on the second version of the ER-2 Call Tech Specs | 15/03/23 | Open |
| SC03/04 | SESAR 3 JU | To send to the SC members more detailed information on the outcome of the DES-01 Call | asap | Closed |
| SC03/05 | SESAR 3 JU | To inform the SC members on the YSA 2023 evaluation reimbursement process | asap | Open |
| SC03/06 | SC members | To draft a work plan for the Open Data Task Force | asap | Open |
| SC03/07 | SESAR 3 JU | To provide the SC members with an update on the status of the preparation of ERP and ERR templates, in relation to the possibility to improve the "Experimental guidelines" issued by the previous S2020 Scientific Committee | asap | Open |

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|---------|------------|--|------|------|
| SC03/08 | SESAR 3 JU | To facilitate information exchange between the SC and the SESAR 3 Transversal project as part of the follow up of the Performance Task Force work in the previous S2020 Scientific Committee | asap | Open |
|---------|------------|--|------|------|