



1st Semi-Annual Newsletter

REDOX PHENOMENA CONTROLLING SYSTEMS ReCosy

EURATOM FP7 COLLABORATIVE PROJECT (CP)

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Objectives and scope

The present newsletter gives a brief overview of the project activities and progress during the first 6 project months. It is intended for a broader community and thus is made available at the public project web page (www.ReCosy.eu). It is also distributed per email to a list of recipients. It is furthermore encouraged to use printouts at different events such as workshops, meetings and conferences in order to inform potentially interested persons.

It is less detailed than the 1st Semi-Annual Project Activity and Management Report, used for thorough information of project partners, the Commission and project reviewers.

Summary

Key activities and progress for the first six project months may be summarized as follows:

- Contractual issues have been successfully concluded.
- The kick-off meeting has been held and all critical issues identified, and measures taken where required.
- As of the project work schedule, scientific-technical work will start after six project months and the first six project months have been used mainly for establishing a thorough basis for project implementation, including various planning activities and decisions.
- Deliverables and achievements of milestones are on time.
- The Knowledge Management system is implemented, functioning well and is intensively used.
- A public WEB page was implemented at the very beginning of the project and, amongst others, used for external and project partners' communication.
- The 1st Annual Project Workshop (AWS) is under preparation. It will be held in Barcelona, Spain 10th to 12th February. The workshop is open to external participation and a flyer has been broadly distributed beyond the project consortium. A specific Topical Session will be held on "Electrochemical techniques for redox state determination".
- The number of project partners is increasing through participation of a progressive number of Associated Groups.

Outlook

The following key issues will be implemented in the second semi-annual project period (project months 7-12):

- The R&D work will start in all R&D oriented WP's (WP 2-6).
- The 1st AWS will be held, 10-12 February 2009, in Barcelona, Spain. In that context, also meetings of the Executive Committee, the End-User Consultancy Group and the General Assembly will also be held.



- The scientific-technical results of the first project year will be documented in the 1st AWS Proceedings: For this purpose, WP activity summaries, individual scientific-technical (S+T) contributions and papers to the topical session are gathered and the S+T contributions reviewed by the EUCG.

The original composition of the End-User Consultancy Group (EUCG) as of the Grant Agreement is:

ANDRA, represented by Scott Altmann
SKB, represented by Ignasi Puigdomenech
ENRESA, represented by Pedro Hernan
GRS, represented by Bruno Baltes
HSK, represented by Ann-Kathrin Leuz
SWRI, represented by Budhi Sagar (final acceptance pending)

Changes are:

ENRESA: Pedro Hernan is replaced by Julio Astudillo
GRS: Bruno Baltes is replaced by Guido Bracke
SWRI: Budhi Sagar has accepted participation at the 1st Annual Workshop as participant of the EUCG. Final acceptance for such participation may be given only on an annual basis, reflecting internal boundary conditions.

- Following the 1st AWS, preparations are made for the 1st Annual Project Activity and Management (APAM) reporting: The Coordination Team and the WP leaders will gather the necessary information, request the required information from the project partners and prepare the first draft of the 1st APAM report.

Project objectives and major achievements during the first six project months

The overall objectives of the first semi-annual project period can be described as ensuring that the project is starting appropriately. This includes ensuring that all required documents (Contract Accession Forms and Consortium Agreement) are signed by all partners, workpackage activities are starting appropriately, milestones and deliverables concerning determination of investigation material for future studies are met, the reporting system is started up, the knowledge management system is implemented, the public website is implemented and a series of start-up activities concerning extension of the project partners as associated groups.

Kick-off meeting was held in the Hotel Estela, Sitges, Barcelona 2-4 June, 2008 hosted by Amphos, the Technical Secretariat to the Project. During these days also the Executive Committee and the General Assembly meetings were held. In addition, a meeting was held with the End-User Consultancy Group in order to discuss experimental systems and conditions to be studied in the Recosy project. Nearly 60 persons attended the 1st AWS, including the European Commission project officer, Gaetano di Bartolo and the European Commission legal officer, Carles Dedeu.

The kick-off meeting was tailored so as to ensure that partners of the individual workpackages have an overview of the work to be performed and that all partners are aware of reporting requirements. Minutes of the individual meetings are displayed at the project knowledge management intranet site of the recosy web portal (www.recosy.eu)



All partners have signed the Grant Agreement Accession Forms and the Consortium Agreement and thus all formal requirements for the Grant Agreement and the Consortium are fulfilled.

The knowledge management system has been implemented and the project intranet site is intensively used.

Different organizations have expressed interest in participating in the project as Associated Groups. KAIST and STUK have already joined the CP ReCosy on this basis. Negotiations are also taking place with other organizations for their possible involvement based on such Associated Group agreements.

The main interest of KAIST is the understanding of redox phenomena of radionuclides in aquifers. They are particularly interested in the determination of redox states and redox processes in radionuclide transport. They are aiming for contributing to the ReCosy work program in the areas of determining redox states, by sharing resources, experiences and expertise and contribute to the project information exchange process.

The main interest of STUK is to participate in information exchange. The person representing STUK has a long experience in redox related radionuclide migration issues. This is also the field where this partner has the greatest interest, specifically redox process driven weathering of U-containing minerals and subsequent migration/immobilization of U series radionuclides in overburden and granitic rock.

As already mentioned above, the 1st AWS will be held in Barcelona, 10th to 12th February 2009, hosted and organized by Amphos. During the workshop a specific Topical Session will be held on “Electrochemical techniques for redox state determination”. Moreover an overview will also be given on optical methods.

This topical session is focused on an area where many participants have in depth experience. A lesser part of the topical session will be used also to introduce the participants to optical/optode methods for redox determination. The registration for this 1st AWS was finalized the 20th October 2008. Attempts will be made to negotiate additional participation if requests for registrations is submitted after that deadline. AWS proceedings will be published as FZKA reports as decided at the project kick-off meeting.

In conjunction with the 1st AWS, the Executive Committee and End-User Consultancy Group meeting will be held. Finally, at the last day of the Workshop, past activities and decisions, as well as decisions of future work will be put forward to the General Assembly requesting acceptance. This task is lead by the elected chair of the General Assembly, i.e. Bernd Grambow from ARMINES who was voted for that position unanimously.

The schedule for future AWS's is: 2nd AWS, Larnaca/Cyprus, 16-19 March 2010, 3rd AWS, France, around March 2011, and the 4th and final AWS in Karlsruhe, Germany, around March 2012.

Workpackage progress

The R&D program is planned to start with project month no. 7 and thus there is no progress to report on this type of activities. The progress on a workpackage level, thus is restricted to those where planning, preparation and decision making activities have taken place.

List of workpackages (WP)	
WP 1	Harmonization of work program and implications of redox for the Safety Case
WP 2	Development of redox determination methods
WP 3	Redox response of defined and near-natural system
WP 4	Redox reactions of radionuclides
WP 5	Redox processes in radionuclide transport
WP 6	Redox reactions affecting the spent fuel source-term
WP 7	Knowledge management and dissemination & training
WP 8	Project management

Work package 1

A questionnaire on work programme and conditions has been sent to all the partners. The agreement on the conditions to be used under the project is specified through the Deliverable D1.1

Deliverables description		Lead Participant	Documentation
D1.1	Agreement on, and documentation of, systems and conditions to be studied	AMPHOS / ExCom	Available in the intranet

Work package 2

InterComparison Exercise (ICE): A detailed questionnaire has been sent to all the partners that will participate in the ICE and a working document with the ICE program is available. Further detailing of the ICE program will be discussed during the 1st AWS.

Deliverables		Lead Participant	Documentation
D2.1	Agreement on details for the inter-laboratory comparison exercise	FZK-INE	Available in the intranet

Work package 3

A meeting has been held with respect to selecting redox determining minerals to be used in the investigations and the first Deliverable is available on their characterization.

Deliverables		Lead Participant	Due date (Project Month)
D3.1	Characterization of the redox determining minerals used in the investigations	CNRS	6 PM and ongoing

Work package 7

A public web site has been established. At this site, information about the project and the project activities are made available to a broad community. A project internal Intranet site has been established where non-public documents and reports are kept. All Contractors have access to the knowledge management site.

Deliverables		Lead Participant	Documentation
D7.0	Plan for using and disseminating the results	AMPHOS	Available in the intranet
D7.1	Project presentation	AMPHOS	Available in the intranet
D7.2	Establishing and regularly updating public web portal and project internal intranet site	AMPHOS	www.recosy.eu
D7.3	Poster presentation of the project	AMPHOS	Available in the intranet
D7.4	Electronic Brochures with the First annual workshop announcement	AMPHOS	Available in the web portal (www.recosy.eu)
D7.5	Semi-annual newsletters informing on the advance of the project	AMPHOS	This document
D7.7	Annual and Training workshop programmes	AMPHOS	Topical session will be held in the 1st Annual Workshop

Work package 8

Signature of the Grant Agreement and the Consortium Agreement

The Grant Agreement was signed between the Commission and the Coordinator with a fixed starting date of April 2008. In order to implement the Grant Agreement, the signature of the Contract Accession Forms by each partner is required as well as conclusion of the Consortium by signature of the Consortium Agreement. The required documents have been signed by all partners and copies countersigned by the Coordinator sent out to each Contractor.

Formal agreements with Associated Groups



After final signature of the Grant Agreement and the Consortium Agreement, the first two Associated Groups have already signed agreements for joining the project on an Associated Group basis. Entering the project as an Associated Group is an open process and thus the number of Associated Groups is expected to increase.

Contract amendment

After the first half year of the Project, there are changes relative to the Annex I (Description of Work) of the Grant Agreement as signed by the Commission and the Coordinator. These changes are detailed in the 1st Semi-Annual Project Activity and Management Report, associated with Deliverable D8.1. Based on growing experience with the practical implementation of Grant Agreements within FP7, it will be decided if one or more of these changes need formal Amendment.

Deliverables		Lead Participant	Due data (Project Month)
D8.1	Semi-Annual management and activity reports	FZK-INE	Sent to all the project partners and the Commission for comments: Is available in the intranet