WMO/IOC/UNEP/ICSU
GLOBAL CLIMATE OBSERVING SYSTEM (GCOS)

16th GRUAN Implementation-Coordination Meeting (ICM-16)
Puerto de la Cruz
17 - 21 November 2025

Doc. 2.5
(13.XI.2025)

Session 2

Task Team Progress Report for March 2024 to October 2025 – Sites

(Submitted by Ankie Piters and Richard Querel)

Summary and Purpose of this Document

Progress report from the task team on Sites Intercommunication and Reporting.

Summary

TT-Sites made progress on several tasks. Two online meetings were held: September 2024 and March 2025, with most of the sites represented.

Task team composition / structure

TT-sites consists of 1 representative per GRUAN station, and currently has 23 members (`www.gruan.org/network/task-teams/tt-sites`, status 2025-06-18). Co-chairs of the TT are Richard Querel and Ankie Piters.

Site	Name
ARM Sites, USA	Evan Keeler
Australian sites	Andrew Winchester
Beltsville, USA	Belay B. Demoz
Boulder, USA	Elizabeth Asher
Cabauw, Netherlands	Arnoud Apituley
Dolgoprudny, Russia	Nadeschda Krestyanikova
Hong Kong, China	Wai-hung LEUNG
Lauder, New Zealand	Richard Querel (co-chair TT-Sites)
Lindenberg, Germany	Peter Oelsner
Minamitorishima, Japan	SHIGEOKA Hiroumi
Neumayer, Antarctica (DE)	Holger Schmithsen
Ny-Ålesund, Norway	Marion Maturilli
Paramaribo, Suriname	Ankie Piters (co-chair TT-Sites)
Payerne, Switzerland	Gianni Martucci
Potenza, Italy	Marco Rosoldi
Réunion Island, France	Stephanie Evan
Ross Island, Antarctica (NZ, US)	Richard Querel (co-chair TT-Sites)
Singapore	Gavin Yeap
Sodankylä, Finland	Rigel Kivi
Syowa, Antarctica (JP)	HISAMITSU Junji
Tateno, Japan	AMBE Shunji
Tenerife, Spain	Miguel Hernández Martínez de la Peña
Trappes Palaiseau, France	Jean-Charles Dupont
Xilinhot, China	Luo Hao Wen

Progress on TT-sites tasks

LC3 - RS92 v3 GDP Progression

b) TT-sites to investigate the availability of data and metadata to process historical data prior to when they initiated data sharing with GRUAN.
Progress & Issues: TT-Sites queried the sites and received responses from a couple of sites that had historical radiosonde flights that had not yet been submitted. LC assisted sites in submitting. This has now been completed, task LC3b can be closed.

LC4 - Site metadata

b) TT-sites to review the document and ensure that the stated requirements are attainable.
Progress & Issues: Waiting for the TN (LC4a)

TT3 - Quality monitoring - Site performance and GCs

This was discussed at TT-sites meeting, and feedback was given to LC. Michael Sommer developed a webpage with live QA-QC plots and data. A draft of that webpage was opened for sites to test. Task TT3 is not fully closed: sites to give feedback (before or at next TT-sites meeting in May 2026).

TT11 - RS92-RS41 Parallel soundings database augmentation with ancillary data

TT-Sites reviewed the draft note about ancillary data to include (2024). We propose a slightly simplified submission (1 README file, 1 metadata file and 1 zip file per dataset which is not publicly available). Task is not closed: revised instructions are needed from LC, before sites can upload.

Progress on other tasks

LC1 - Restoration/continuation of UTLS WV measurements at sites.

Progress & Issues: TT-sites discussed this, based on the guidance note from LC (2024) on different options. Several sites reported to be conducting or planning tests with alternatives (input from TT-sites meetings and sites reports; might not be complete):

- Beltsville has been testing several versions of CFH modifications.
- Boulder launches the NOAA GML FPH with three options: R23, dry ice and alcohol, and LN2.
- Lauder will slowly phase out the R23 FPH launches and move to exclusively LN2 FPH launches.
- Lindenberg performed monthly dual-Skydew soundings before May 2024 and contributed to the development and testing of a liquid nitrogen container for CFH in search for an alternative cooling method.
- Nyalesund plans to launch Skydew from May 2026. A first test flight with Skydew was done in 2024.
- Payerne hosted the H20-Hub field campaign, which involved 10 CFH + PCFH flights in 2024, several of which were used for intercomparison of different cooling gases or materials other than R23
- Paramaribo will host and later operate NOAA FPH-flights, cooled with either LN2, or dry ice and alcohol.
- Potenza started Skydew measurements in 2025
- Reunion offers location for test flights together with R23 flights (they have up to 5 flights left, status September 2024). The site launches NOAA FPH-flights, cooled with either LN2, or dry ice and alcohol.
- Sodankyla has flown a new version of the CFH sonde using liquid nitrogen.
- Tateno regularly launches Skydew

Sites would like to get more (earlier) information on results of tests performed by others. Some sites want some help with software for monitoring and data submission for new instruments. Lead Centre offered help.

LC5 - Data policy development version GDPs

TT-sites has not yet been involved in these discussions.

LC6 - Resolve data reporting for sites unable to use RSLaunchClient

This was discussed at TT-sites meeting. Help was offered to one site having difficulties with the GRUAN tools, but the issue came down to their own IT security restrictions and lack of IT staff re-sources, limiting their ability to develop a solution.

TT4 - GC for autolauncher

This task is led by Meteo Swiss. A questionnaire (with input from TT-sites co-chairs) was sent to TT-sites, interested sites participated in the subsequent meetings and tests.

Relevant activities not covered by tasks

There were two online TT-sites meetings: September 2024 (AM) and March 2025 (PM). 18 and 14 sites were represented respectively. Relevant topics (other than covered above):

- EUMETSAT validation project: several GRUAN sites participated in the proposal
- Justification for frequency of photo-documentation
- Occasional loss of GPS signal by jamming at certain locations: needs guidelines on ground station settings (not stop sounding) and use of pressure sensors
- Environmentally-friendly alternatives: GRUAN to pay special attention to assess quality of environmentally-friendly alternatives, like biodegradable materials, partial re-use of sensors, returning gliders.

Governance / Terms of reference

No changes needed.