



Met Office Board

Summary

26 July 2010

- The minutes of meeting held on 29th June 2010 were agreed to be an accurate record. Highlighted actions were reviewed and closed.
- Nick Jobling delivered the finance report, drawing the Board's attention to the downward pressure on Commercial Revenue, now forecast at £31.3m. NJ also reported the Business Profitability remains stable at £5.7m and on target with ROCE reported as broadly OK, currently 0.5% above target.
- NJ informed the Board that the slippage in CAPEX was in part due to some delay in Mass upgrade, linked to the timing of the supercomputer phase 2 and delays to Future Upper-Air Network Design and radar projects, although it was still intended to continue these projects and the issue was one of timing.
- NJ also delivered the Health and Safety Update, noting the first near miss reported. This was seen as a very positive development in the attitude of reporting and particularly of use in this case as there were effective measures available to prevent a reoccurrence.
- Director of Technology (Alan Dickinson) joined the meeting to update the Board on Supercomputer related issues.
- AD summarised the implementation of the two green initiatives for DC power and evaporative free cooling. Confidence was expressed that this should reduce the emissions compared in real terms to the previous year. The Board were also informed that the upgrade to supporting infrastructure was reported to be on budget and on schedule. The Mass project to migrate business-critical legacy data was also reported to be on target.
- The ongoing work to compare experience with Green IT and to assess the feasibility of sharing supercomputing facilities with ECMWF was discussed.
- John Hirst delivered his Chief Executive report, informing the Board that the forecast accuracy measures were currently green and on target. Rob Varley discussed the On-Time-In-Full measure in more detail, including the weather dependant element. RV informed the Board that PSWCG were supporting a review of the warning system.



- JH reported that the change in government policy had resulted in a change to the previous requirement to lay KPTs in parliament as part of the Annual Report and Accounts. The measures had been approved in principle, and would have their name changed to reflect this change in policy. JH noted that having these measures, as agreed by the Board, had proved useful for focus and delivery.
- JH discussed with the Board the fact that the work done by the Met Office on volcanic ash had gone well beyond the VAAC responsibility, but was still short of a “purchaser”. JH reported that for the procurement of a research or civil contingency aircraft, a stage had been reached where the procurement should not proceed until the Met Office had received a clear commission.
- The Board discussed the risk of further eruptions, how these might be handled by the government and it was agreed to continue re-enforcing the ongoing discussions and raising the issue of improvement propositions and the funding required.
- JH informed the Board regarding the generally positive progress of climate service to Insurance companies. He also notified them of a strategy meeting with NERC in the coming week.
- Julia Slings reviewed her recent visit to the USA. This included a visit to the space weather centre in Boulder. JS informed the Board that NOAA was interested in developing a long term relationship.
- The Board noted the HR report. They noted the frustration with various issues, including the pay freeze, the uncertainties for staff around the new BBC contract and the efficiency spending controls. RV reported that he had been travelling to different outstations and he reported he had seen a very varied overview, often dependant on individual managers.
- The Board noted and endorsed the proposed changes to the MOSAC TOR. Brian Hoskins and JS commented that the proposition was transitional, towards a final goal. However the requirement to broaden the role of MOSAC was achieved and it would be important to maintain the focus of MOSAC as this transition occurred.
- The Chairman noted there was no meeting in August. As such requested a brief e-mail update of any relevant issues in early September. It was also noted that an earlier start was planned for September to allow for a review of the Board Governance/Structure.
- **Close of Meeting**