**Welcome**

**Apologies for John**

**Welcome to the Met Office here in Exeter. This is the national weather service for the UK and runs global to local NWP models for nowcasting to T+6days. We also run monthly, seasonal, decadal and climate models to provide advice to government. We are running the unified model on 3 IBM Power-7 clusters.**

**The Met Office is also a major telecommunications hub for the GTS and we will hear more about that later.**

**These data exchange meetings are important to the Office to identify new datasets of potential use, to put in place the mechanisms for the exchange of datasets and report on the use of the data. With the growth of the number of Asian satellites it is becoming increasingly important to set up links with these space agencies.**

**Apart from welcoming the space agencies and NWP centres I would also like to welcome the WMO to this meeting both in the guise of Jerome and Fred.**

**If you have any questions just ask me or Simon or Chris.**