

The procedures used at the experimental IDC should follow, as far as possible, the procedures currently envisaged for the eventual IDC. Thus, the procedures should be validated, well documented and follow strict rules and schedules, they should be as automatic as possible and contain (as a goal) no subjective judgement.

Data and results should be stored in the IDC-database and should be reliable and authenticated.

All procedures should be secure and repeatable so that results could be reproducible.

There should be sufficient redundancy in the IDC-system, at least 99 per cent functionality will be required, the time schedule must be adhered to.

The IDC Analysis Software should be available to the participants so that they can repeat the analysis.

The IDC should provide the participants with user support and computing capabilities.

It should be possible to implement improvements to the IDC software easily and rapidly.

It should be possible to incorporate new scientific methods and technological advancements.

The work should be a joint international effort.

6. Schedule of implementation and testing

Most of the Alpha stations which the GSE considers should form part of the experimental network exist today. The GSE intends to seek the support of the actual countries in contributing those stations to the experimental network and to the test. A number of new stations will have to be established and the GSE hopes that this can be achieved through national or cooperative international efforts. Modern, high-speed communication links will need to be established for both the Alpha and Beta stations in the experimental network. The GSE foresees a gradual establishment of the network by adding stations when they are completed or made available.

The introduction of the Beta-stations will also be by a step-by-step procedure and the Group will make further decisions as to the beta-network once it is clear which stations participating countries will contribute to this network.