



Engineering and Physical Sciences  
Research Council

## STRATEGIC ADVISORY TEAM

### SUMMARY OF *EPSRC E-INFRASTRUCTURE SAT* MEETING NOTES AND DISCUSSION ITEMS: 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 *Imperial College London, London*

#### Attendees:

Spencer Sherwin, ICSTM (Chair)  
Steven Kenny, Loughborough  
Clare Gryce, University College London  
Leigh Lapworth, Rolls Royce  
Neil Chue Hong, Edinburgh  
Beth Wingate, Exeter  
Rene Belso, DCSC  
Sarah Anne Harris, Leeds  
Roy Johnston, Birmingham

#### Apologies:

Paola Carbone, Manchester  
Jos Martin, Mathworks

#### EPSRC:

Susan Morrell  
Katherine Freeman  
Susan Peacock  
Edward Clarke

## 1. Welcome

All SAT members were welcomed to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Paola Carbone and Jos Martin.

## 2. Minutes and Actions arising:

The minutes were confirmed as an accurate reflection of the previous meeting, and all of the actions were highlighted as complete or in progress.

## 3. EPSRC Update:

EPSRC gave an update on the topics detailed below.

### Balancing Capability

The EPSRC Balancing Capability project was at the reaching decisions stage and

other themes within EPSRC would be asking their SAT members to look at the draft research area rationales at their September meetings. The rationales would then be sent to Council for signing off. The revised rationales would be published in 2017.

#### Attendance at other SAT meetings

During the SATs conference it was highlighted that Research Infrastructure SAT members wanted to be more engaged with the other EPSRC themes to ensure that infrastructure was considered in rationales and other theme strategies. Several SAT members had volunteered to attend other SAT meetings. The SAT discussed the messages to highlight at other SAT meetings.

#### Software Call

EPSRC had released a Software Call focussed on Flagship projects for CCPs and HEC Consortia, £3M of funding was available for up to 6 projects. EPSRC had received 17 proposals, which would go to a peer review panel in January. The team thanked the SAT members for their input into the call document.

#### Gateway 5

The ARCHER Service had undergone a Gateway 5 review. The review investigated whether the benefits set out in the original Business Case were being achieved and whether the operational service was running smoothly. The result was an Amber/Green, with a green for the service. The review team had highlighted that the service was highly respected by the user community and the need for the service to continue was a strong theme.

#### PRACE

The hosting members of PRACE would no longer be offering access to their Tier 0 systems for free; a financial contribution would be required from the non-hosting members which would be used to fund teams of software engineers at the hosting sites. The SAT agreed that it would be good to advertise this programme more widely.

#### New SAT members and Chair

EPSRC thanked the demitting members for their contribution to the e-infrastructure SAT. There had been a call to refresh SAT members.

## **4. Software Strategy Workshop**

There was a discussion about the structure of the sessions at the upcoming software strategy workshop, and the structure of the proposed new software strategy framework. The SAT suggested that there should be a separate session at the workshop about the long term strategy, and how to make it sustainable. The SAT members agreed to champion a table at the workshop. The SAT also recommended that a discussion around skills, training and the role of Research Software Engineers would be important to discuss at the workshop. These comments and suggestions would be taken into account by EPSRC when finalising the plans for the workshop.

## 5. US/UK networking in computational software

EPSRC presented some options for investing in travel funding to encourage interactions between HPC communities in the UK and USA. The SAT provided feedback on these options and EPSRC would draft a proposal taking these points into account and seek SAT member feedback on this.

## 6. Software Accreditation

Neil Chue Hong presented some slides on the software accreditation pilot. The next stage of the project was to test the pilot on researchers. Neil would feedback the results of the pilot at the next meeting.

## 7. Tier-2 HPC

EPSRC presented a paper on the management, integration and accessibility of the newly funded Tier-2 Centres. The SAT were supportive of the idea of a launch event to raise the profile with users; coordinating the centres (e.g. through regular network meetings of the centre directors); and coordinating access in some way.

## 8. ARCHER-2 Science Case

The SAT discussed the ARCHER-2 Science case which would be going to EPSRC council as part of the case for the next national supercomputer. The SAT suggested that codes used on the Tier-2 facilities should feed into the benchmarking testing ahead of the procurement of ARCHER-2.

## 9. Rolls-Royce projects on ARCHER

Leigh Lapworth gave a short presentation on the progress of Rolls Royce projects on ARCHER. Progress had been made in improving the efficiency of the code in scaling to ARCHER.

## 10. AOB

The SAT suggested the following future agenda items:

- EPSRC data management
- Software accreditation update
- EU Open Science Cloud
- Tier-2 and ARCHER update

Given the large range of activities underway, the SAT agreed to meet in February or March 2017.