



Engineering and Physical Sciences  
Research Council

## STRATEGIC ADVISORY TEAM

### SUMMARY OF *EPSRC E-INFRASTRUCTURE SAT* MEETING NOTES AND DISCUSSION ITEMS: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016 *Imperial College London, London*

#### Attendees:

Spencer Sherwin, ICSTM (Chair)  
Paola Carbone, Manchester  
Steven Kenny, Loughborough  
Leigh Lapworth, Rolls Royce  
Neil Chue Hong, Edinburgh  
Beth Wingate, Exeter  
Rene Belso, DCSC  
Sarah Anne Harris, Leeds  
Jos Martin, Mathworks

#### Apologies:

Roy Johnston, Birmingham  
Clare Gryce, UCL

#### EPSRC:

Susan Morrell  
Lucy Martin  
Katherine Freeman  
Iain Larmour

## 1. Welcome

All SAT members were welcomed to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Roy Johnston and Clare Gryce.

## 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.

The e-infrastructure SAT chair gave an update on the EPSRC SAT chairs meeting. This meeting had highlighted the importance of Infrastructure SAT members engaging with other EPSRC themes, especially with regards to the Balancing Capability strategy. SAT members were interested in attending other theme SAT meetings. There would also be the opportunity to engage with other EPSRC theme SAT members at the upcoming SATs conference.

### 3. EPSRC Update

A presentation was given, which included updates on:

- Research Software Engineer (RSE) Fellowship Scheme
- The Research Data Facility(RDF)
- ARCHER Leadership and RAP Call:

The SAT commented that it would be useful to monitor the number of new users applying to the RAP call and ensure that it was still encouraging new users to apply. There was discussion around the ease of access to ARCHER, and specifically to the consortia. It was noted that the consortia were generally open to new users, however if this process became completely open this would place a resource burden on the consortia.

- HPC Business Planning
- Software accreditation pilot
- EPSRC Delivery Plan:

EPSRC was developing its delivery plan which was based around 4 outcomes which contribute to a prosperous nation- a healthy nation, connected nation, resilient nation and a productive nation.

- Balancing Capability:

EPSRC themes were working with SATs to identify gaps in the evidence base to help develop the research area rationales. The Infrastructure theme were gathering evidence (reports/reviews) on infrastructure related activities. EPSRC will be launching an on-line call for evidence in April/May 2016 for individual research areas from universities.

### 4. RI Delivery Plan

The SAT discussed the draft Infrastructure section for the EPSRC Delivery Plan, and offered their comments. These will be incorporated into the final draft document.

### 5. Software Strategy

The group discussed whether the objectives set in the previous EPSRC Software strategy were still relevant and, if these objectives were still relevant what new actions EPSRC could take to enable these. The comments from the SAT will be incorporated into the new draft of the strategy document.

### 6. Software Calls

The SAT discussed the idea of the next Software call having a more specific focus, as there had been a high demand and low success rate for applicants in the past 3 calls. The SAT suggested that it would be timely to hold a software workshop to enable EPSRC to gain ideas on what the focus of the call could be, and to engage with the community about the call.

### 7. EU Open Science Cloud

The SAT discussed the proposed EU Open Science Cloud (EOSC), which aims to provide researchers with services for storage, management, analysis and re-use of the data that are linked to their research activities, across borders and scientific

disciplines. The Commission has appointed a High Level Expert Group (HLEG) on the EOSC to advise on the scientific services to be provided on the cloud and on its governance structure. There are likely to be large amounts of funding available, and so it is important for the UK to be well-positioned to take advantage.

The SAT observed that it was important the activity should be driven by the needs of the users (researchers) rather than the technology providers (EGI, Geant, EUDAT etc.). It would be important to identify which EPS communities could benefit (e.g. materials genome). EPSRC should work with the other RCs to develop a shared understanding and position.

## 8. AOB

Future agenda items:

- Software strategy update.
- Research Council allocations update.
- PRACE update.
- Local and regional HPC centre update.
- Update on Cross Council strategy on e-infrastructure.

Next meeting date: Monday 12th September- G32, Imperial College London