

Chair's Report

Alan Real gave a report to the meeting. The highlights were:

- Alan gave a background to the Tier2 launch in Birmingham on 30 March 2017
- A brief presentation from each of the Tier2 sites was given to the SIG meeting on 9 February 2017; the presentations are linked from that meeting page
- A Technical Working Group has been set up by Andy Turner at EPCC, which aimed at sharing technical knowledge between the Tier2 sites. Integration with SAFE is also discussed by this working group
- ARCHER is due to be end-of-life at the end of October 2018. Discussions around this included:
 - Alan Real is on the Project working Group for the successor to ARCHER
 - The current pre-election PURDAH period has delayed a planned survey about user requirements for son-of-ARCHER; this will not now be published until the new government is formed
 - The deadline for return of this survey will be Supercomputing 2017, which starts on 12 November 2017 so responses will be needed swiftly. The SIG list will be mailed when the survey is available
 - It may be appropriate for SIG members to co-ordinate responses at their site
 - The Project Working Group will analyse the results
 - Will this be one large purchase or will there be recurrent for new technologies as they emerge? This is part of the current discussions; the recently-established Tier2 centres will, to some extent, inform the applicability of new technologies
 - There is a wider overall environment than just the HPC, for example data transfer and remote visualisation. The NERC-funded JASMIN data infrastructure (<http://jasmin.ac.uk/>) informs considerations around a data analysis environment
 - A more flexible environment for interactive use, especially for software development with large-scale debuggers/profilers may also form part of the new service