

HPC-SIG 13 September 2017 - Chair's Report

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

- National e-Infrastructure Survey (NeIS):
 - thanks to all who responded
 - this survey tried to reach out to new sites as well as the more established ones
 - Susan Morell from EPSRC is preparing a business case for a more closely integrated e-Infrastructure, with the survey data providing a baseline. This will have an emphasis on more collaborative benefits rather than a disjointed set of requirements. It will be presented to the RCUK Science and Research Strategy Advisory Board, for sign-off from RCUK. This needs to be written in such a way as to attract politician's attention, not something the HPC community has always been good at.
- Some short-term 'emergency' funding has been made available from BEIS; £2million to JASMIN/NERC and £9million to DIRAC, who currently are relying on end-of-life hardware.
- Andy Turner from EPCC mentioned the recent Archer2 town meeting:
 - the meeting was facilitated by technical members of the Archer2 Project Working Group & Science Board
 - the users expressed little or no appetite for different technologies such as GPU or many-core accelerators; the overall requirement is for greater conventional processing
 - job charging by power consumption rather than CPU use was discussed
 - I/O and parallel filesystems are becoming increasingly important within the overall service
 - additional data on usage such as job size and memory use is now being gathered
- There has been a meeting scheduled in October between Liam Maxwell, the first government National Technology Adviser. Alan Real, Jeremy Yates, Steve Newhouse and other Research Institute directors.
- Computing Insights UK is on 12 and 13 December 2017. The main theme is *Joining up Infrastructure*; the call for talks is now open. There may be parallel streams on cloud, networking and general HPC - the organisers are aware of the need to avoid clashes in similar topics in parallel streams as far as possible.
- The RCUK Cloud Working Group was mentioned:
 - there was a workshop organised by the Group in November 2016; this may be re-run.
 - the Group is asking for topics for a January 2018 workshop; Andy Turner suggested that parallel I/O in the cloud is of wide interest