

HPC-SIG: News Round Up

1st July 2019



..or What's Occurin'?

Headlines:

- i. Jacky Pallas Memorial – working with the suppliers/KCL/STFC to launch an award at CIUK 2019.
- ii. EPSRC Tier-2 Regional Centre Calls.
- iii. Archer Service Outage.
- iv. Unconference Conference – Birmingham 17th July 2019.
- v. HPC-SIG Terms of Reference

EPSRC: Tier-2 Indicative Dates

Next round of regional centres call:

- **11th July 2019**: Envisaged Call date
- **1 August 2019**: Intent to submit (no EoI stage, just statement of intentn required by this date)
- 'Mid-August' 2019: panel clarifications based on statement of intent (one week response time to queries)
- 10th September 2019: Full proposal submission
- Mid-to -End October 2019: EPSRC Interview panel
- Mid-to-End November 2019: EPSRC internal commitment process and confirmation of proposed grant awards announced

Funding:

- Estimated budget in the region of £15M capital (with the potential to split over two financial years)
 - Bids will need to have an expenditure capital profile included, with costs over Q4/2019, Q1/2020, Q2/2020, Q3/2020
- Potentially EPSRC might be able to provide a smaller 'Operational' budget to support the centres - TBC

Call:

- Duration for 4 – 5 year service
- Supplement Tier-1 and Tier-3 services (domain specific / new technology / promotion of computational research across primarily EPSRC domains) – broad remit with a variety of themes for centres to bid into.

ARCHER: Service Outage

ARCHER to ARCHER-2

- **mid-February** Archer service will cease (19th February 2020 – TBC)
- Allow for datacentre modifications to host the new ARCHER-2 system (under procurement)
- Estimated **11 week** outage from ARCHER to commencement of new ARCHER-2 service
- Note: RDS service is also approaching end of maintenance (**April 2020**) so not a guaranteed data staging area
- **Early identification** of work that might be detrimentally impacted by this outage appreciated (e.g. PhD Studentships)
 - Possible prioritisation schemes / access to other centres or Tier-2 resources) for those projects, but need to be raised with EPSRC.

17th Jul 2019: Birmingham University

- **Target audience:** 'system administrators' responsible for the day-to-day operations of the supercomputing facilities (not centre managers!)
- Aims to help foster a community to support the growth in skills and best practice in running the diverse services/communities we are now supporting (akin to the RSE network)
- Identify the issues / challenges facing this community
- Provide some possible topics with a short presentation to stimulate debate/discussion (but NO FORMAL AGENDA).
- Stig Telfer (StackHPC) talking about 'How to shave a Yack!'
- TBC IBM Big Data – technical engineers – no sales/marketing!
- https://hpc-sig.org.uk/index.php/event/unconference/?instance_id=22