

Nordic LHC Computing Grid Committee

Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 13:00 – 14:45

Location: NordForsk office, Stensberggata 27, Oslo, and Zoom

Invitees: Håvard Helstrup, Norway (chair)
Josva Kleist, Denmark
Mikael Rännar, Sweden
Mattias Wadenstein, ex-officio, NT1 Area Coordinator
Oxana Smirnova, ex-officio, NeIC CERN Liaison (at the minutes)

Invitees on Zoom: Tomas Lindén, Finland
Abdulrahman Azab, NeIC Executive Manager
Gianfranco Sciacca, associated member, ATLAS

Apologies: Jørgen Beck Hansen, Denmark
Sebastian von Alfthan, Finland
Farid Ould-Saada, Norway
Richard Brenner, Sweden

Item NLCG 23-10 Welcome, approval of today's agenda

No additions to the agenda are proposed.

Decision: Agenda is approved.

Item NLCG 23-11 Actions follow-up

Cover Documents:

1. Meeting Protocol 1/2023.

Status of the actions:

AP1. Done, letter to NRICCC was prepared and sent, evidently had the intended impact

AP2. Done, the CMS+LUMI Task Force activity is starting, some contacts and initial bootstrap have been made.

AP3. Done (this meeting is scheduled)

Decision: Action points completion acknowledged

Item NLCG 23-12 Updates from the management

Abdulrahman A. gives an update on NeIC funding applications. The one in Sweden (coordinated by NAISS) is sent, another to the Academy of Finland is on its way. Application to the Norwegian research council will be sent in May. In Denmark it is not clear yet which funding agency would

be the proper one. In Iceland and Estonia, contributions are smaller, so the process is more straightforward.

The outcome of the recent NordForsk Board meeting is that a future NeIC is seen as consisting of several modules: NT1 as a core, plus community forae (e.g. on Fair Data, Sensitive Data, Machine Learning, Competence Building etc). No open calls are foreseen in future. On May 22-23 in Copenhagen there will be a provider forum, involving national infrastructure providers, which is tasked with defining a set of such projects, while research communities will provide use cases for the projects. Competence Building forum may include Code Refinery, for example. NORDUnet's presence would be very welcomed. Further, a call for research e-infrastructures will be published by NordForsk some time this year, NeIC will be invited to participate. On June 8, an NRICC-NordForsk workshop will be held, to discuss NeIC future and handling of the call (e.g., will NeIC be just an applicant or a facilitator of the call). NordForsk is committed to providing NeIC with 1 FTE for the director, and will support NeIC's networking activities (exact amount is yet unknown). A future legal entity to host NeIC is not yet known, but it won't be NordForsk, not if NeIC will be a portfolio of projects. There's a will to conduct an orderly transition from NordForsk to a new entity, which may be another Nordic organization, such as e.g. NORDUnet, or it may even become a new legal entity.

Mattias W. adds that after the workshop on June 8 there will be a workshop between NordForsk and national funding agencies (top management level) dedicated to the future of NT1, some time in fall. The positive aspect is that the proposed cancellation of NeIC funding by the end of the year was not approved, instead, the set of workshops was proposed to ensure a smooth transition.

Josva K. points out that NeIC as a separate legal entity will not work for Denmark, Mattias W. adds that it might be problematic in Sweden as well. Håvard H. wonders if a similar model to NordForsk can be used – the general opinion that it is unlikely, because NordForsk is a very special case. Josva K. further says that NORDUnet welcomes NeIC's Board input on what is needed on the NORDUnet's part (governance model, specifically). NORDUnet in general is better suitable to host NeIC now than it was in the NDGF days.

Abdulrahman A. clarifies that NordForsk is still willing to coordinate NT1, but only NT1 and without providing core funding to it beyond the director. An MoU between funding agencies regarding NT1 commitment is envisaged, to match the long-term nature of the CERN MoU, and separate MoUs for other modules may follow. The exact structure of future NeIC in this respect is still unclear.

Josva K. and Håvard H. point out that there are still mismatches between long-term commitments and short-term research and hardware funding. Oxana S. reflects that this is a general situation everywhere, and hardware can hardly be a long-term commitment, because it may come from various sources (HPC allocations, clouds etc), and has short life span.

Tomas L. asks whether input from NLCG is needed to the future funding applications. Abdulrahman A. replies that in Sweden there was a very good teamwork with NAISS and LHCK, and the process is likely to be similarly smooth elsewhere, provided there will be good input from local WLCG communities.

Decision: Information is noted, the Committee appreciate the acknowledgement of NT1 importance and the wish to find a sustainable long-term solution.

Item NLCG 23-13 NT1 Area Coordinator Report

Cover Documents:

1. Slides by Mattias W.

Mattias W. presents the quarterly updates. ATLAS tape delivery is delayed to after summer due to delays at IBM, putting quite some pressure on the entire NT1. Gianfranco S. suggests reporting it to the WLCG Ops, as well as to ATLAS ADC management. Current ATLAS tape accounting is already higher than the installed capacity, because most sites are borrowing some tape from other projects.

ALICE disk is currently used by temporary data which will be removed soon. CPU usage is catching up with the pledges.

Josva K. asks what is “unpledged disk” – Mattias W. explains that it is as in Slovenia, i.e., used temporarily, until reclaimed by other projects.

Decision: The report is noted

Item NLCG 23-14 Pledges for 2024 preview

Cover Documents:

1. Pledges spreadsheet.

Oxana S. shows the spreadsheet with the new CPU benchmark HS23, which for the time being is a new name for HS06, until experiments and sites will start using the new benchmark suite. Some NT1 nodes plan to run the HS23 benchmark, because is easier to run and gives better results on newer hardware. Transition of the APEL accounting to the new benchmark is still ongoing.

Mattias W. points out that ATLAS tape pledge will need to increase by 30% within a year.

Oxana S. stresses that the next NLCG meeting will have to finalise the 2024 pledges. Michael R. points out that there’s certain dependency of that on NeIC future decisions, as well as on the outcome of national funding calls.

Decision: Information is noted

Item NLCG 23-15 Next meeting

Week 34 is proposed for the next meeting, tentatively August 23-25, a Doodle poll will be circulated.

Decision: Oxana S. sends a Doodle pool for the next meeting date.

Item NLCG 23-16 A.O.B.

Oxana S. and Mattias W. report that NT1 will be present at CHEP 2023 with one talk and one poster. In addition, an ARC-CE tutorial at the EGI conference it accepted. Abdulrahman A. confirms that the poster to ISC'23 was not accepted due to a very limited space allocation.

Actions

- AP1. Josva K. encourages NORDUnet's participation at the providers' forum in Copenhagen.
- AP2. Mattias W. communicates tape delays to ATLAS.
- AP3. All: prepare national pledges for the next NLCG meeting
- AP4. Oxana S. sends a Doodle pool for the next meeting date.