

**DRAFT NOTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE HPCx SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON FRIDAY, 12 MARCH 2004**

**PRESENT:**

At UCL:  
Richard Catlow (CRAC)– Chair  
Patrick Briddon (PB)  
Martyn Guest (MFG)  
Deborah Miller (DM)  
Alan Simpson (ADS)  
Lois Steenman-Clark (LSC)  
Shirley Miller – Secretary

At University of Oxford:  
Mark Sansom (MS)

At Pittsburgh Supercomputing  
Centre  
Ralph Roskies (RR)

At Forschungszentrum,  
Juelich  
Rudiger Esser (RE)

Apologies: Carlos Frenk, Mike Leschziner

**1. Welcome (CRAC)**

CRAC welcomed all members of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to its first meeting and invited all members to introduce themselves. He explained the role of the committee was mainly to support the existing scientific programmes on HPCx and advise to on future programmes.

**2. Terms of Reference and Membership (CRAC)**

The Terms of Reference were discussed and subsequently agreed by STAC.

The membership was amended to replace Hugh Pilcher-Clayton with Deborah Miller as representative of EPSRC.

The MRC representative had resigned and a new member from that area needed to be identified. **Action: CRAC/MFG**

**3. The HPCx Project (ADS)**

ADS delivered the presentation which had previously been circulated to the Committee. This comprised a general overview of the project, a review of the first year of service and the Annual Plan for 2004.

Observations and questions arising from presentation:

- RR questioned the metrics defined in the review of the first year asking whether these would be refined for the second year. He considered the serviceability and MTBF targets to be very aggressive. CRAC invited RR to send comments on the targets and invited EPSRC to note the comments of the international committee member. **Action: RR**
- CRAC noted that utilisation was dominated by chemistry and materials and suggested this needed to be addressed. ADS described approaches in the Annual Plan to broaden this.
- LSC suggested HPCx were more familiar with workplans and programmes of these fields but did not know as well how other groups worked, e.g. NERC. She suggested inviting other groups to discuss how they operated and how HPCx could help them. Understanding the difference would help to broaden the science programme. ADS acknowledged the suggestion of improving dialogue between NERC and HPCx. It was agreed a workshop be set up to address this. **Action: ADS/LSC**
- RR noted the absence of visualisation and data handling in the Annual Plan and there was a discussion about the importance of including these. RR felt visualisation was important when documenting and publicising the scientific successes of HPCx. He encouraged its use to disseminate scientific information to non-scientists. **Action: STAC to look at promoting and disseminating work on HPCx.**
- STAC approved the proposed staffing changes detailed in the Annual Plan.
- STAC approved the set of objectives for science support detailed in the Annual Plan. In addition they asked HPCx to add visualisation, data handling and look at improving public awareness.

#### **4. The Phase2 Upgrade: Status & Acceptance (MFG)**

MFG delivered the presentation previously circulated to the Committee and expressed the need to treat this in strictest confidence.

#### **5. HPCX Status Reports (ADS and MFG)**

MFG delivered the presentation on the Life Sciences Programme previously circulated to the Committee. He reported the Life Sciences Programme was now up and running and a progress report would be provided at the next meeting. **Action: MFG**

ADS delivered the presentation on the Tape Archive previously circulated to the Committee. A short discussion about the issues followed.

#### **6. Any other business**

LSC – asked about managing change in phase 2 upgrade with respect to compilers and the expressed the need for precise information. ADS detailed the phased approach adopted to minimise the risks.

## **7. Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting would be in September at a venue to be decided. SM would trawl for best availability.

Shirley Miller  
15 March 2004