

AUSTRALIAN eRESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL (AeRIC)

AeRIC MEETING – 17 NOVEMBER 2008

AGENDA ITEM 4: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Purpose

To update AeRIC on developments within the Platforms for Collaboration Capability.

Interoperation and Collaboration Infrastructure (ICI/ARCS)

The progress report for ICI, due on 30 September 2008, has been received and assessed by the Department. The report and a summary of the Department's assessment were circulated to AeRIC members for comment out of session on 30 October 2008. Once agreed, the related payment of \$2.15m will be made to the lead agent, the Victorian Partnership for Advanced Computing (VPAC).

A new NCRIS agreement for ARCS to provide exemplar authorisation services was signed by the Department on 22 October 2008. The agreement engages ARCS, through its lead agent VPAC, in a similar arrangement to that implemented under the ICI project.

The ARCS Authorisation Services manager position has been filled and is expected to be based at Macquarie University. This appointment constitutes one of a number of management positions recently filled within ARCS. Managers are also now in place for ARCS Collaboration and Systems Services.

The NSW based Intersect joined the ARCS collaboration in recent weeks and will represent a number of institutions within the state. Ac3 will continue to participate within ARCS projects through Intersect's membership of the collaboration.

Further discussion on this component will occur under Item 6 of the Agenda.

Australian National Data Service (ANDS)

The Funding Agreement for ANDS was signed with Monash University on 17 September 2008 and work has commenced on the four programs within ANDS: Developing Frameworks; Providing Utilities; Seeding the Commons; and Building Capabilities. The Australian National University and CSIRO are collaborating with Monash University to deliver ANDS, and have signed a formal Collaboration Agreement to this effect.

The ANDS Executive Director has been appointed: Dr Ross Wilkinson was appointed Interim Executive Director in early October and has recently accepted the position of Executive Director.

ANDS is currently working toward a series of Establishment Milestones, which are tied to the first \$2 million of the total \$21 million in funding. An Annual Business Plan is due to be completed by 31 December 2008; this is expected to be a refinement of the ANDS Establishment Project's Interim Business Plan. DIISR's acceptance of that Plan is a payment milestone for a further \$3 million payment.

National Computational Infrastructure (NCI)

The progress report for NCI, due on 30 September 2008, has been received and assessed by the Department, to its satisfaction. The Department has written to the NCI Program delegate to confirm acceptance of the NCI Progress Report.

The report and a summary of the Department's assessment were circulated to AeRIC members out of session on 30 October 2008 for their views on any issues that need to be raised with the NCI Project Management Team or in future NCI business plans.

Further discussion on this component will occur under Item 6 of the Agenda.

Australian Access Federation (AAF)

Developments with the AAF will be discussed under Item 7 of the Agenda.

National eResearch Infrastructure Taskforce (NeAT)

Developments with NeAT will be discussed under Item 5 of the Agenda.

Action

Members note the report.

AeRIC Executive Director

November 2008