

AUSTRALIAN eRESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL (AeRIC)
AeRIC Meeting - Thursday, 23 April 2009

**AGENDA ITEM 6: AUTHORISATION SERVICES COMPONENT OF
ICI BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2009/2010**

Purpose

To provide AeRIC with an outline of the Authorisation Services component of the ICI/ARCS Business Plan for 2009/2010.

Background

ARCS has sought to identify the readiness of research groups and potential service providers to engage with ARCS Authorisation Services in order for them to develop an authorisation capability to provide services via the Australian Access Federation (AAF). ARCS Authorisation Services has established contacts within specific communities (e.g. ABIN, IMOS) and has commenced discussions in order to identify requirements for exemplars to be implemented during 2009. These exemplars are expected to provide benefit to other communities and service providers.

Summary

The focus of the Authorisation Services technical work during the second half of 2008 has been on integrating AAF capabilities (Shibboleth authentication) with the current X.509 certificate based Australian grid authentication infrastructure. This and associated work will be required to deliver fully operational deployment of AAF-enabled Grid infrastructure.

During the second quarter of 2008/09, ARCS joined the Pilot AAF Club and contributed to planning to deploy a Pilot AAF Federation during 2009. ARCS is represented on the Pilot AAF Club steering committee, and in technical, policy and marketing working groups. ARCS will host a node of the Pilot AAF Federation, working closely with Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in order to provide a high-availability, load-balanced service.

The Authorisation Services project has appointed a Manager, established a Steering Committee, and published the ARCS Authorisation Services Implementation Plan including team KPIs.

By the end 2009/10, Authorisation Services' goal is to have direct engagement with all NCRIS projects with a need for authorisation services and productive collaboration with other PfC areas, particularly ANDS, in order to support the effective use of the AAF.

Issues

The Authorisation Services project forms a component of the ICI/ARCS Business Plan for 2009/10. This is an effective way to present the progress and the planned future activities of the Authorisation Services within the broader context of the ICI/ARCS planning process.

Nevertheless, the Authorisation Services project is funded under a separate NCRIS funding agreement. In order to fully satisfy accountability requirements, it will be

necessary for ARCS to provide separate Progress Reports and Final Report in accordance with the NCRIS funding agreement.