

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

AGENDA ITEM 7: AUSTRALIAN ACCESS FEDERATION

Purpose

To update AeRIC on developments within the AAF.

AAF Pilot

Since December 2008, CAUDIT has led the establishment of a Pilot AAF activity, intended to prove requirements and then select and transition to a production AAF environment by end of 2009.

The Pilot AAF is composed of foundation members who have each contributed seed funds and/or necessary in-kind contributions (up to \$50,000 each). The foundation members are: ARCS, CSIRO, Edith Cowan, Griffith, Pfc, Macquarie, Monash, QUT, UniSA, UQ, and UTas.

The Pilot AAF Steering Committee, representing the above organisations, has taken on the responsibility for ensuring that a fully functional Australian Access Federation will be available to the Australian research and education community and service providers.

Membership will be opened up once the founding members have proven the Pilot AAF in production services using their own teaching and research activities as the test cases.

A pilot AAF technical infrastructure has already been deployed at QUT and ARCS and is now operational. In parallel, the Pilot AAF Policy Group chaired by Paul Sherlock (Deputy Chair, CAUDIT) is developing the AAF Rules of Membership, Operator Procedures and Draft Constitution that will also be piloted along with the technical infrastructure and presented at CAUDIT's general meeting in May.

The intention is to develop sufficient certainty on the requirements of an AAF Operator that a tender for that service can be put to the market later in 2009. In addition, work is underway to validate the establishment of an incorporated association as the legal framework for the AAF proper.

Where existing use of the MAMS test federation requires continuing production level support, those users will be assisted to migrate to the Pilot AAF in an orderly fashion.

It is possible for IdPs to participate in both the MAMS test federation and the Pilot AAF; however it is likely that the test federation will fall into disuse by mid year.

Both the University of Queensland and Macquarie University retain SII funds in the AAF Project and have yet to agree with DIISR on the use of those funds.

Action

Members note the report.

AeRIC Executive Director

April 2009