

## AUSTRALIAN E-RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL (AeRIC)

### AeRIC MEETING – 20 November 2007

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: ARCS/ICI update (and discussion on appointment of ARCS Executive Director) (Dr Francis)**

##### **Purpose**

To provide AeRIC with an update on activities within the ICI/ARCS component of PfC and to seek AeRIC's agreement to the selection process, and shortlist of candidates, for appointment to the role of ARCS Executive Director.

##### **Issues**

###### *Update*

Following endorsement by AeRIC, DEST approved the ICI Implementation Plan and agreed to the ARCS Collaboration Agreement on 7 November 2007 (the agreed final Collaboration Agreement is at Attachment A). As a result of achieving these milestones, the second payment has been issued to VPAC, as the lead agent in the Collaboration. The ICI Implementation Plan covers the period through to 30 June 2008 with the next annual business plan due to be submitted to DEST by 31 March 2008.

The ARCS agreement was signed on 15 November 2007 by ac3, ANU, CSIRO, eRSA, iVEC, TPAC and VPAC. It is expected that QCIF will continue to carry out ICI activities external to the Collaboration, through subcontracting arrangements with VPAC. While QCIF will seek to resolve the concerns raised by the University of Queensland's lawyers, and may potentially sign the ARCS Collaboration Agreement, QCIF's engagement over the longer term may need to be re-evaluated.

The first task for the ARCS Executive Committee will be to appoint an Executive Director. This appointment is dependent upon that person being acceptable to DEST. DEST has indicated that it will make this decision in consultation with AeRIC.

###### *Appointment of an ARCS Executive Director*

Documentation describing the selection process undertaken by ARCS will be provided to AeRIC at the meeting on 20 November. The advertisement for the position is attached to this paper (Attachment B).

##### **Action**

- That AeRIC note the update relating to ICI/ARCS activities.
- That AeRIC accept the selection process for the appointment of the ARCS Executive Director.
- That AeRIC accept the shortlisted candidates for the role of the ARCS Executive Director.

AeRIC Secretariat, November 2007

**Attachment A – Final ARCS Collaboration Agreement**  
**Please refer separate ARCS Collaboration Agreement pdf attachment (in two parts)**

**Attachment B –  
ARCS Executive Director Position Advertisement**

**Executive Director  
Australian Research Collaboration Service**

***Overview of ARCS***

The Australian Research Collaboration Service (ARCS) is a newly established program that will provide underlying support to Australian researchers across all disciplines. ARCS has been funded by the Federal Government as part of the NCRIS “Platforms for Collaboration” program for a period of 4 years, and in particular is charged with the provision of the Interoperability and Collaboration Infrastructure.

ARCS was established in recognition of the fact that almost all research now has a “digital” component far beyond the mere use of a desktop PC. This rapidly growing component is now commonly referred to as “eResearch”. Scientific instruments, such as telescopes, microscopes, hydrophones, etc, are digital and produce large datasets for storage and analysis; social scientists create large datasets from transactions or from surveys; researchers often create large data sets as a result of running computer models. All of this growing wealth of digital information needs to be stored, analysed, curated and archived.

ARCS was created to establish and manage a platform where eResearch infrastructure and services are accessible to researchers through a “single logon”. ARCS manages the complexity of the underlying networks, middleware and authentication, so that the researchers can be more productive, without the need to be part time computer scientists. ARCS will provide seamless connectivity, data movement services, access to computing power, and collaboration spaces including video conferencing and eResearch consulting support.

ARCS is an unincorporated Joint Venture of 8 research support organisations — one in each state, as well as the ANU and CSIRO — and is managed by an Executive Committee of members drawn from these organisations.

ARCS is seeking to employ an inspirational Executive Director, who will lead the organisation, and ensure that ARCS’s clients in the research community are well served. The person may be located in any State, and there will be a reasonable amount of travel involved.

***Specific Accountabilities***

1. Developing operational plans and other strategic planning documents and submissions, and in particular, the Annual Business Plan;
2. Managing ARCS in accordance with the Annual Business Plan as directed by the Executive Committee;
3. Preparing plans and budgets for specific projects for approval by the Executive Committee;
4. Developing new funding opportunities for ARCS as appropriate and consistent with its overarching mission;
5. Preparing the reports required by DEST and other key stakeholders

6. Overseeing expenditure on major items which have significant risk or liability implications;
7. Coordinating the efforts of geographically disparate support teams to ensure combined teams work seamlessly;
8. Representing ARCS in appropriate forums;
9. Proactively liaising and managing relationships with and between identified stakeholders, including the research community, DEST, state Governments, and other NCRIS areas.

### ***Essential selection criteria***

1. General management experience in either the academic or commercial sectors;
2. Demonstrated project management expertise;
3. Demonstrated ability to deliver against SLAs;
4. Demonstrated experience in managing budgets and associated personnel;
5. Ability to understand and work in an academic research environment;
6. Ability to take the initiative and work without close supervision;
7. Well developed interpersonal skills, necessary to work with personnel and team members both local and interstate;
8. Demonstrated ability to communicate clearly, especially in written form;
9. Ability to communicate with a wide variety of stakeholders, including ARCS participants and affiliates, the research community, University DVCRs, State and Federal Government officials, technical and administrative staff and others;
10. Commitment to providing a quality customer-oriented service to clients;
11. Demonstrated understanding of the underlying technologies and solutions involved with eResearch services and ICI.

### ***Desirable selection criteria***

1. Demonstrated leadership and innovation skills;
2. Demonstrated entrepreneurial and political skills;
3. Demonstrated experience in eResearch activities and/or the provision of eResearch support services.

### ***More details***

A competitive salary will be negotiated with the successful applicant. The initial appointment will be for three years. See the NCRIS Platforms for Collaboration website at <http://www.pfc.org.au/> and/or contact the ARCS Executive Committee Chair, Professor Bernard Pailthorpe, on [bap@uq.edu.au](mailto:bap@uq.edu.au) or (07) 3365-6131.