

AUSTRALIAN E-RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL (AeRIC)

AeRIC MEETING – 20 November 2007

AGENDA ITEM 6: ANDS Implementation Strategy (Dr Francis)

Purpose

To provide AeRIC with an update on activities within the ANDS component of Pfc and to seek AeRIC's agreement to the proposed ANDS Implementation Strategy.

Issues

Update

The October AeRIC meeting agreed that the Executive Director and DEST should finalise the work of the ANDS Technical Working Group (TWG) and meet with potential parties to an ANDS agreement in order to develop an ANDS proposal for consideration by Council at this meeting.

The TWG met for the last time on 23 October. The finalised document describing the objectives for ANDS and the services it should offer is titled *Towards the Australian Data Commons: A proposal for an Australian National Data Service* and is available online at:

<http://www.pfc.org.au/twiki/pub/Main/Data/TowardstheAustralianDataCommons.pdf>

During the week ending 9 November, the Executive Director and DEST met with senior representatives of the institutions which have emerged as the likely parties to an ANDS Joint Venture or collaboration agreement: Monash University, the Australian National University and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

Proposal

Those parties have agreed, in principle, that:

- A Project, to be known as the ANDS Establishment Project, should be commenced and funded to take ANDS forward to full implementation.
- The contract to be signed by 23 November.
- Project to commence in earnest from 1 January and conclude by 30 June 2008.
- The Project will be led by a Project Director, to be appointed by Monash as the contracting entity.
- There will be a Steering Committee to oversee the project, to which the Project Director will report.
- The (non-voting) chair will be appointed by Monash and each of the 3 parties will have 2 voting members of that Steering Committee.
- DEST would also nominate a (non-voting) member of the Steering Committee.
- Up to \$3 million would be available for the project, and that any residual would be accounted for in the ANDS Business Plan for 2008/09-2009/10.
- The funding would support approximately 2 EFTs from each of the 3 parties to produce a number of defined deliverables within the project period.

- These deliverables would include the JV (or whichever form the formal collaboration agreement takes), the initial ANDS Business Plan, the NCRIS contract and the international search for the ANDS Executive Director.
- The timing of these milestones will be defined as an Attachment to the Monash contract.

In addition to the activities to establish ANDS, there is also a need, given the 'hiatus' between the end of some relevant SII projects at the end of this calendar year and the commencement of ANDS on 1 July, to ensure that key skills, capabilities and activities are not lost to ANDS in the interim.

The second part of the Establishment Project is proposed to involve Monash sub-contracting with nominated parties to continue activities within projects for which funding will run out in the period between now and 30 June 2008, where the people/skills/ activities will be reflected in the ANDS business plan, on the basis that they relate very closely to the services described in the ANDS document.

It seems likely that the work in this category will be:

- Some elements of the Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories (APSR) project.
- Some elements of the PILIN – Persistent Identifiers project, the operation of which is likely to be at the National Library of Australia once ANDS is established.
- Some elements of the RUBRIC project relating to the development and implementation of standards for interoperability.

This part of the proposal is not to extend SII per se, but to retain skills and capability and accelerate the development of ANDS services in the period to 30 June 2008.

Action

- That AeRIC note the update relating to ANDS activities.
- That AeRIC accept the proposed ANDS implementation strategy.

AeRIC Secretariat

November 2007