

**AUSTRALIAN E-RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL (AeRIC)  
AeRIC MEETING – 5 AUGUST 2008**

**AGENDA ITEM 6: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN ACCESS  
FEDERATION PROJECT**

**Purpose**

To update AeRIC on the progress in implementation of the Australian Access Federation (AAF) project.

**Issues**

The Universities Australia Board has agreed to assist in developing a governance model for the AAF and a number of meetings have taken place to consider the options. The approach favoured is to create a new subsidiary of UA for the AAF. The new company would utilise some resources from UA's other subsidiary, HES, to assist in administering contracts, for example, but the AAF's policy and governance would be anchored in a dedicated, broadly representative committee. Nick Tate and UQ's lawyers had lengthy and apparently fruitful discussions with HES representatives on 28 July.

The most recent AAF steering committee meeting (July 30) advanced the discussion as follows, it:

- identified a preference for a direct subsidiary of UA, rather than positioning the AAF under HESS, an existing subsidiary of UA
- identified the need for a clearer statement of the AAF company objects, in the form these would be stated in the articles of association, as that form of words would legally guide and limit the actions of any directors appointed – to be drafted for the next S/C meeting.
- provided guidance to the project team on the market segmentation that was likely to be available to the AAF for establishing various revenue streams and the way in which on-going development might be included in an expense side, so that a first cut cost-model and business case could be prepared for the next meeting.
- noted the likely estimate of uptake would need to be tested with the community so that DIISR could be advised of the potential under-writing that might be needed to initiate the AAF.
- agreed that the form of member agreement for each class of member, spelling out the rights, roles and obligations of being a member should be finalised urgently along with a plain English version .

Substantial progress has been made on connecting the current AAF infrastructure to the ARCS grid, with demonstration use now possible and production use likely in the next few weeks.

**Action**

Members note the report

AeRIC Executive Director

August 2008