

# Investment Plans and Platforms for Collaboration

## Principles of 5.16 Investment (DRAFT)

This statement of principles has arisen from discussions around inter-relationships between 5.16 investment and other NCRIS capabilities.

### General Comments

The Goals of the investment plan for 5.16 are to provide cyber-infrastructure services which are:

- of broad value across all research communities
- of value to those communities whose research needs led to the NCRIS capabilities
- of value to the services delivered by the platforms created or augmented by NCRIS investment

Hence 5.16 investments will focus towards shared services that no single community could afford or justify in its own right, or where piecemeal development would hinder rather than aid collaboration.

The NCRIS Roadmap identified a number of likely 5.16 investments, including: networking, HPC, national grid services, the flexible provision of various forms of expertise and data related services.

The intention is that such services should be delivered through agencies where the service is the primary mission, so that over time, other capabilities and research investments can source (potentially dedicated) services from this infrastructure and provide appropriate funding to it for that purpose.

The geography of service providers and facilities will arise from co-investment and other discussions.

### Specifics

Storage	5.16 intends to invest in storage, data movement and data linking services, within a national integrated system, supported by a number of suitable service focused organisations. It also intends to invest in expertise to help facilities join the national data backbone, and plans to provide data location and transport services to access and move data efficiently and effectively. 5.16 does not expect to purchase storage systems located in and dedicated to research facilities or research groups.
Computing	5.16 intends to invest in a range of computing services that can be redeployed across a broad range of research users, supported by a number of suitable service focused organisations. It also intends to invest in expertise to assist facilities and research communities apply grid solutions to access these shared resources. 5.16 does not expect to buy computers located within and dedicated to research facilities or research groups.
Expertise	5.16 envisages that some expertise related to the development of cyber-infrastructure and its adoption by facilities and research communities will be re-deployable and funded by 5.16 5.16 envisages other expertise to be a 'cost of operation' of a facility (and hence out of scope) because the expertise is either so domain specific that it rests entirely within the needs of a specific facility or the personnel are to be full time and permanently required by a facility.
Connecting	5.16 intends to budget with co-investors for the full cost of the cyber-infrastructure services it supports and may invest in some access systems. However, costs associated with modifying enterprise systems within facilities to inter-operate with the cyber-infrastructure is out of scope.

Rhys Francis

NCRIS Facilitator, Platforms for Collaboration.