

**Capital Programme Town Meeting
Wednesday 10 May 2006
Jurys Inn, Birmingham**

Question & Answers

e-Infrastructure Programme

Question	Answer
When does the AHRC Project call go out	This is currently in negotiation with AHRC but it is anticipated that the call will be issued sometime in Autumn 2006
If you are already working with OMII on tool development, can you join in the bidding on OMII funding under Grid Services and Tools?	<p>Only Accounting and Usage will be an open call. Funding is already allocated for other areas under the Grid Services and Tools theme.</p> <p>In terms of the OMII, its developments will be determined by user requirement surveys, with the priority on tool and production level developments for deployment on the NGS.</p> <p>Development will be contracted to OMII, but how they then carry out the work is under OMII's control. They may work with existing partners, issue calls or subcontract, so there may be opportunities especially if you are already working with OMII.</p>
What grid technologies (such as GT4 etc.) will you be focusing on within the NGS?	The decision has yet to be made by the NGS. There are a range of grid technologies currently being evaluated such as GT4 and gLite. In general the choices will be determined by what the community is using, but we are keen to see developments supporting Web Service standards such as WSRF.
Microsoft Research has recently published a report called 'Towards 20/20 Science' and this seems to suggest the need to move away from current e-Research and e-Infrastructure confines	<p>Microsoft is looking at a blended approach to research i.e. researchers 'blending' the new techniques from e-Research with existing techniques – in that sense there is no e-research, just an extension of what they are doing already. Text mining is a good example of extending existing techniques as it allows the analysis of large numbers of documents that wouldn't previously be possible.</p> <p>What Microsoft are saying is that technology should be enabling research, and focusing on outcomes. This ties in with a well-used BT quote that 'there are</p>

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	<p>no IT solutions, just business solutions' There is a shift to focus on what users actually want – and technology becoming an enabler of that rather than a focus in its own right.</p> <p>e-Research and e-Framework are perhaps unfortunate terms since they imply an emphasis on technologies. This programme is about pushing the barriers of the type and nature of research you can do with technology but with the focus within this programme is strongly on user engagement rather than on the technology – assisting people doing their existing and new research.</p>

Identity Management and Levels of Assurance Call

Question	Answer
<p>What type of proposals are you seeking – studies or tools?</p>	<p>Consolidation is the key to the aims of this call. It has been recognised that there is a policy angle within the community that needs supporting, but broader needs outside of technology have to be taken into consideration. This means that tools looking at HCI, for example, will not be strictly ruled out. It is a question of how does one make software work with everyone else. A large element of the e-Infrastructure programme is about user requirements and this will definitely be addressed in other areas as well that will be tool-focused. For instance, where technology arising from e-Science Core Programme have not been taken up by the community we would like to examine why this is.</p>
<p>Please can you expand on JISC's interest in both small projects as well as large ones – do bidders still need to fill 10 pages either way?</p>	<p>For the first phase, there is a total of £400k and it is anticipated that this would fund 4 projects at £100k each as an approximation. This is to account for the recent introduction of fEC, which has meant that most proposal budgets are more than they were previously, and to ensure that there is sufficient budget for projects to be able to deliver what they need to. However we will not rule out smaller or larger projects where there is a strong case. We are quite happy to see bids for these run to less than the 10</p>

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	page maximum. What is important is a well-structured proposal that supports the areas of the call so 10 pages is a maximum page limit not a minimum.
Does a UK e-Science security roadmap exist and can it be seen before submitting bids?	The e-Science Security Roadmap, originally drafted in 2005, has been incorporated into the document being produced by the OST e-Infrastructure working group on security issues. Their report is in 'final draft' stage but is not yet for public distribution. It should be available around July.
Does JISC intend to fund small bits of work to link the identity management systems currently in use in institutions to emerging Shibboleth systems – involving e.g. Sun and Microsoft where required?	<p>Such linking is not specifically part of this call and is more relevant to the JISC Shibboleth Transition Programme and the early adopter projects currently being funded.</p> <p>JISC is in the process of negotiating with Microsoft specifically in relation to ADFS development, which is a limited step towards integration.</p>
Will proposals for other areas e.g. e-learning, be considered under the Identify Management and Levels of Assurance Call?	Proposals must focus on research but could include reference to other areas of the Capital Programme such as e-learning and digital repositories.
Can you clarify 'closed' call for phase two – for example, can consultants and others with IdM or LOA solutions bid into phase 2	<p>We will review this near the completion of phase 1, and this may depend on the outcomes of phase 1.</p> <p>The idea of phase 2 is to capture the outcomes and issues identified in phase 1 and to streamline implementation and keep a consistent line of engagement with the phase 1 teams. The 'closed' call is also to give as much time to complete the work as possible; doing a second open call would involve going through the same process that we are currently engaged with and, of necessity, this can take time away from that available to carry out what needs to be done.</p>