Ad-hoc notes from Access to Tier-2 Discussion Group

EPSRC Perspective (E. Clark, EPSRC)

Coordination across sites

- Expect work from centres to coordinate
- Tier-2 Director's Group already kicked of and has demonstrated a desire to coordinate
- Wide range of technologies and operating methodologies
  - How do we exchange these in an sensible fashion?
  - First instance will be quick and dirty due to time constraints

Access Routes

National Open Access

- Centres administer their own stuff themselves
- Similar to ARCHER RAP with TAs
- Smart Survey web portal for applying?
  - Single portal for access to any centre to support Case for Support
- Deadline coordinated between sites and ~quarterly
- Applications go to centres to be assessed
  - Technical Assessments...
  - ...and Case for Support
- Clearing panel of centre directors (or reps.) + ARCHER
  - Managed by centres, not EPSRC
  - Avoid double dipping
  - Opportunities for pushing to correct resource if needed
  - Is there possbility for reallocation if particular resources are oversubscribed?
- Need to announce the first call at or before the Tier-2 launch event
  - Aim for call in Sep 2017
  - Technology in place Aug 2017
- What about prioritising different research areas?
  - Need to see what initial applications look like
- Are-skim of applications to ensure that there is no repetition
  - Do not want to duplicate effort in TA or panel
  - Can we use Turnitin to assess for commonality
- Is RSE effort going to be assigned as part of calls?
  - Probably not

Responsive mode applications

- Tier-2 access requests from grant applications
- Sites keen to support this

- EPSRC only

Applications from other research councils

- Sold through local centres, not from EPSRC time
- Instant Access/Seedcorn:
- No-one (including EPSRC) had any problem with offering Instant Access type applications

Technical Assessments

- Can applicants submit pre-completed TAs from ARCHER applications without need for re-review?
    o Yes
- Can local SIG members be technical reviewers even if not member of Tier-2 centre?
- Who will be the technical reviewers for each centre?
    o EPCC plan to run in a similar way to ARCHER CSE using RSE FTE for this
- TA review corresponds to around 0.1 FTE on ARCHER
- Around 30-40 TAs per quarter on ARCHER
- What is the volume of applications expected? Probably high?
- EPSRC unsure whether HEC consortia will get block allocations
    o Directors will decide this

Initial Questions Considered

- What methods:
    o National Open Access calls
    o Access witten into grants
    o Simple taster access (a la ARCHER Driving Test)
- Coordination across sites and other facilities
- Commonality of access forms
    o Are all sites going to have technical assessments?
    o If so, who is perfomning these TAs at your site?
    o Should we allow moderation across different sites?
    o Can we converge on minimum requirements for access applications?
- Are calls going to be coordinated across sites so all issued are at the same time

Actions

- (Andy Turner) Check on use of PRACE DECI web application portal