

NATIONAL DATA SERVICE CONSORTIUM

LAUNCH PLANNING GUIDELINES

Preamble

In the planning for the launch of a National Data Service (NDS) Consortium, guidelines are needed to ensure a transparent, fair, and effective process during what is anticipated to be a six-month launch period. This is a living document that will, ultimately be replaced by a charter document launching the NDS Consortium.

Preliminary Vision

The National Data Service refers to a modular, extensible, framework sharing and publishing research data across all disciplines of science and engineering. This data can come from individual researchers or large collaborations and projects. The data may be produced by experiments, surveys, instruments, or computer simulations, or it may represent new processing and synthesis of existing data. Such data is expected to serve as the basis for scientific results published in professional and academic journals. The NDS is expected to also provide support for sharing the models and software associated with the data and its analysis.

The NDS will provide essential services for finding, using, sharing, and publishing data. As it will bring together many archives, libraries, federations and other data resource across many disciplines and communities, it should build on the standards and infrastructure for sharing data that being put into place by those communities. A unifying architecture for NDS will allow for numerous tools and community-specific services to not only plug into the NDS framework but also extend and enhance the NDS as it grows and matures.

The NDS Consortium is envisioned as an alliance of communities, projects, publishers and other stakeholders that will participate in the NDS federation. Its aims are to coordinate the efforts of the participating organizations as well as inform the development and evolution of the NDS architecture.

Goals and Objectives during the Planning Process

The overarching goal of the launch planning process is to ensure sufficient input, dialogue and agreement to ensure an appropriate scale, scope and initial focus for the National Data Service. This includes the following objectives:

- Prepare and conduct the June 12-13, 2014, launch planning meeting
- Conduct an initial stakeholder map
- Develop a preliminary vision for system architecture
- Develop and charter an initial governance structure for the Consortium

Consortium Launch Participation and Membership

There are three categories of participants anticipated in the NDS launch planning process:

- Individual launch participation
Individuals with a strong interest in engaging in the NDS launch process, but who are not prepared to speak on behalf of their organization.
- Organizational launch participation
Organizations with a strong interest in engaging in the NDS launch process, but who are not prepared to signal their intent to serve as charter members.
- Consortium launch membership
Organizations who intend to serve as charter members in the launch of the NDS

Guiding the launch process will be an international advisory board of senior science and technology leaders who will be champions for the NDS.

Types of Organizations/Stakeholders

Key types of organizations/stakeholders relevant to the launch of NCS include, but are not limited to:

- End user scientists
- Universities and colleges
- Government agencies (international, national, state, local)
- Initiatives centered on sharing data, models and software (including pipeline development)
- Data Centers
- Cyberinfrastructure providers
- FFRDCs
- Professional associations
- Standard setting organizations
- Software developers
- Commercial organizations
- Scholarly publishers
- Libraries, museums, archives
- K-12 education
- Citizen scientists

Roles and Responsibilities

Over responsibilities of all participants include:

- Transparency of information sharing
- Constructive engagement

We consider it important to establish appropriate balances between:

- Deliberation and action
- Research and education
- Majorities and minorities

Individual responsibilities during the launch process include:

- Active participation in planning meetings
- Membership in one or more working groups