

# Interim Report from Sub-committee on OSG Sustainability

Feb 2013

## Preamble

The Council sub-committee on OSG sustainability has covered a range of topics and possible approaches. We regard this report as interim, recommending some pilot activities to facilitate an ongoing discussion and engaged thinking on how best to sustain the unique role of the Consortium – its ideals, vision and scope.

## Recommendations

- Describe future needs based on the expected evolution in the nature and computational profiles of the Consortium members, e.g. increased presence of individual researchers on the campus, as well as existing participants needs.

We recommend a survey of member organizations of the OSG towards the end of 2013 to provide us with information that will drive our further thinking. We will also use the metrics on number of Campus organizations, number of individual users at Campuses (being recorded for example in the Year 1 Annual report).

We recommend that one of the council face-to-face meetings each year be dedicated to discuss longer-term futures – with preparation beforehand.

- Recommend needed changes in the operational and business models to address the changes, including the accelerating rate of changes, in the environment, expectations and technology.

Possible organizational models include: Member fee LLC – cf Internet2 – and charging for services offered by the OSG. We recommend a pilot of this latter possibility to explore how it could work in practice. We recommend a couple of options for this pilot by organizations that volunteer.

We need to carefully assess what additional effort these approaches would need. E.g. would we need a business manager?

We recommend the OSG organization and the mechanisms for doing work is agile and proactive, given the rapid changes in eco-system and technologies.

- Identify how one might depend on other organizations than the OSG project if they are determined to more effectively provide to the needs.

We identified Internet2 as the one organization that might be delivering services that overlap with the OSG services. However the recent evolution of I2 into a more commercially oriented organization gave us pause for thought. We do not have any recommendations in this area.

## Discussion of Offering “pay for service”

Most likely to have success in defining “pay for service” in the context of what we are doing now.

One example is helping campuses architect, design, implement a shared campus infrastructure. Many campuses cannot afford the uptick in investment needed to build such programs; once trained they can more easily sustain and operate the infrastructure.

Another example is helping a campus get effective use of the opportunistic resources available through the OSG – tuning, monitoring, configuration support etc.

Another example is customization of software and adaptation of applications to use the infrastructure. HTCondor is an example where the group can do work for others against a purchasing order.

*We recommend acceptance and endorsement of a pilot proposed by Miron to pilot a paid training service at the University of Wisconsin on OSG Campus infrastructure to cover principles, implementation and operations, and application adaptation and deployment.*

## Appendix

The services were identified where communities (using ATLAS and CMS as examples the committee knows about) might pay for services. Note that SBGrid is an example where member subscription pays for software packaging and distribution.

1. VOMS hosting.
2. WMS (GlideinWMS, Panda, DAQMAN/Condor) development, adaptation and operations.
3. Site Security Organization (Drills, training documentation)
4. Packaging of grid interfaces (CE, SE)
5. Training
6. Monitoring

## Charter of the Sub-Committee

The Sustainability sub-committee of the Open Science Grid Consortium Council will consider the makeup, needs and approaches of the Consortium in 2015 and beyond and recommend a path to successful implementation of any changes required.

The sub-committee will:

- Describe the anticipated needs based on the expected evolution in the nature and type of the Consortium members, e.g. increased presence of individual researchers on the campus, as well as existing participants needs.
- Recommend needed changes in the operational and business models to address the changes, including the accelerating rate of changes, in the environment and technology.
- Identify how one might depend on other organizations than the OSG if they are determined to more effectively provide to the needs.
- Cover particular topics such as managing change and sustainability in software, production, resource management in more depth.