

NEES Standing Committee: Information Technology Committee

May 22, 2003 Meeting Minutes

1st National Consortium Meeting

Park City, Utah

Introductions

Remote Participants

- Pete Beckman, Argonne National Lab
- (Anke Kamrath, San Diego SC)
- Bev Clayton, Pittsburg SC
- Barbara Horner-Miller, Arctic Region SC
- Manuel Vigil, Los Alamos National Lab

Membership Policy

Terms/Acronyms

- CD, SI, ES, “the Consortium”, RFP

Official Charge to Committee

- Advise Board on operation & budgeting of IT
- Provide Board with strategic plans to update Consortium’s IT capabilities
- Review annual IT budget & make recommendations to Finance Committee
- Advise EOT Committee on effective ways to advance member’s IT knowledge & skills
- Coordinate with Data Sharing Committee
- Assist staff by providing expertise in IT knowledge and skills
- Interface with other Committees as required

Results of Yesterday’s “Audience Poll”

1. Which task has the highest priority for the Information Technology Committee in the next 3 months:

- Ensure that the NEES IT system will be useful to researchers & other potential users. – 51%
- Define the scope of collaboration tools & services to be supported by NEES. – 22%
- Define the scope of the NEES data repository and how it will be accessed. – 21%
- Define how the NEES IT system will be managed as of Oct. 1, 2004. – 6%

2. Which component of the proposed NEES IT system is most important to you?

- Tools for finding & accessing data from experiments. – 56%
- Tools for collaborative project design and planning. – 16%
- Tools for participating remotely in experiments. – 12%
- Repository for sharing community software. – 8%
- Availability of Grid-based resources. – 8%

Key Deadlines and Tasks for the Next Few Months

- June 20: The fifteen ES submit draft budgets
- Aug. 29: ES submit responses to RFP
- Sept. 30: Consortium submits umbrella proposal to NSF (covering first 5 years of operation)
- Oct. 1, 2004: Formal operation begins

Discussion of Initial Priority Item

What Board Is Asking for Over Next Year

- Review IT-related portions of ES responses to RFP
- Review RFP for managing Data Center
- Assist in reviewing IT-related portions of CD proposal
- Review proposed criteria and processes for SI acceptance testing
- Make recommendations for how overall IT structure should be laid out, budgeted, and managed during the operational period
- Make recommendations on processes, criteria, and sources for IT hires needed prior to Oct. 1, 2004

How Can We Organize Our Initial Efforts?

- Clear priority among audience
 - (June-July) Review acceptance testing criteria/processes
- Deadline-driven priorities
 - (now) Final recommendations about IT sections of RFP for ES
 - (June-July) Review RFP for managing Data Center
 - (July-Aug) Review ES responses to RFP
 - (Aug-Sept) Review responses to Data Center RFP
 - (Sept) Review IT-related portions of umbrella proposal to NSF
 - (ongoing) Interactions with Data Sharing Committee

Concurrent-Activities Approach

- Designate “liaison” to Data Sharing Committee
- Form initial subgroups on
 - Acceptance testing
 - ES RFP
 - Data Center RFP
- Address most urgent priority today

Today's Priority Item - RFP to ES

- Key items that need to be spelled out in the RFP
 - Can we afford to refresh everything? Can we afford not to?
 - How should we handle equipment maintenance contracts?