



# GEANT TCS crisis

WLCG Management Board, Nov 26, 2024

M. Litmaath

# Timeline

- Nov 13 – first public indications in WLCG of a big issue affecting GEANT TCS
  - Sites and users may be unable to obtain any GEANT CA certificates as of January 10, 2025
- Several follow-ups with the IGTF chair to come to a plan for advising affected sites and users
  - We did not want to rush matters while there was much uncertainty
- Nov 21 – broadcasts sent to all EGI sites, NGIs, ROCs and VOs, with precise recommendations
  - WLCG MB and EGI NOC managers list provided with further details

# What is the problem?

- GEANT TCS depends on a back-end service provided by a commercial company
  - It is the back-end that actually does the certificate generation, in this case on behalf of the various GEANT CAs in corresponding namespaces
- The company wanted to renegotiate the terms and the price of the rolling renewal contract – up to 8 times what was being paid!
- A further complication lies in disagreement over the end date of the current contract
  - The company claims it is as early as January 10, 2025, which is being disputed by GEANT

# Meanwhile

- GEANT have been working hard to:
  - Try to come to a new agreement with the company in question
  - Look for alternative back-end providers
- Integrating a new provider would normally take many months
  - On a much shorter timescale, rough edges may persist for a while
- Hopefully there will soon be good news in these matters!

# Further considerations

- The risk of other such upsets affecting our CAs is there
- It has been suggested that the free Let's Encrypt CA would be the answer to such worries
  - Already in use for OSG services not featuring in WLCG
  - Some technical obstacles exist
  - Mind there also is a risk in building an infrastructure on a service kindly paid for by someone else **today**: what if it suddenly goes away?
    - Cf. the **CentOS saga!**
- The [Resource Trust Evolution TF](#) could be a good place to look further into these matters