



GridPP

UK Computing for Particle Physics

HNSciCloud

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30th April 2015



- Funding agencies (EU-T0) seeking to leverage funding from Horizon 2020.
 - Initial suggestion made at HEPiX was to take part in a common European Procurement for “Novel Hardware” eg an Open Hardware platform. We expressed interest but no progress made. Probably not a good match to the call.
- H2020 ICT-8 call: *“Boosting public sector productivity and innovation through cloud computing services.”*
Part (a): *“Pre-commercial procurement for public sector cloud computing services (PCP)”*
 - Public sector commit 30% of the cost of the procurement and EU tops up to 100%.
 - Large proposals expected
 - Must be novel

- All quiet until March when CERN HELIX Nebula team (Bob Jones) started pushing hard to prepare project proposal.
 - Message is that procured resources could be offset against WLCG MoU commitment.
 - Leverage EU funding to meet WLCG computing infrastructure costs
- Plan does not fit GridPP strategy - commercial cloud computing platform only likely to take Monte-Carlo which back-fills resources needed for peak high I/O. Undermines GridPP Tier-2 model
 - We didn't engage - does not match our strategy
- Heavy lobbying of John Womersley who asks us to consider proposal. A bit like crowd-funding by Tier-1s:
 - 300K euro buys us work package manager role (get staff funding)
 - 150K euro allows us to take part in the project (no effort funded)

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- Rapidly do maths (as have only couple of days to commit to project). Not enough time to do job properly but conclude maths does not add up:
 - Project delivers evaluate CPU cycles in FY16 and the full pilot service in FY17.
 - The services will have to be paid for out of GridPP “resource” (blue money)
 - Tier-1 hardware budget is “capital” (red money)
 - FY16 hardware is bought in FY15 and capital budget already allocated
 - Also - because of cloud and CEPH initiatives we have spare hardware in FY16 which helps meet FY17 MoU commitments too.
 - Also - a lot of the levered EU funding will just offset higher cloud costs (also the high cost of running the project/procurement).
 - And we still have to pay for all the Tier-1 staff
- **DOES NOT MAKE FINANCIAL SENSE** - advised JW and

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declined!



- Actually told JW it looked a very interesting project if STFC could fund from another pot of money.
 - We need to understand true cost and viability of commercial cloud computing.
 - Better to be on the inside track of the project and have access to true situation.
- Project progresses Project tied to “European Science Cloud” Narrative. EGI engaged - Increasing emphasis on non-LHC.
 - Tier-1s in varying states of engagement but all worried about missing departing train.
 - UK Government (G-Cloud) engaged with project at oversight level.
- Concluded that despite lack of financial benefit, strategically worth engaging - but offer only 75K euro from Tier-1 operational budget. (or better - the 100% scenario)

- Hear back from EU in September. My expectation is it will be successful. Requested EU funding is 4.7M euro (the 70% contribution)
- If successful, then UK must decide what to do with the procured resources (250K euro - minus procurement overhead - for UK).
- Best plan probably to badge them as UK-T0 (or EU-T0) and use them as a resource to engage with new UK communities. Possibly cloud bursting from the Tier-1.
- With the right approach, can get real benefit from the project.