Helix Nebula open day
Closing Remarks

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Ladies and Gentlemen, as we have seen today, the use of IT for the research sector is at a turning point.

Driven by the unprecedented needs of their scientific instruments and programmes, research communities are looking for ways to increase the efficiency of their existing installations and to rapidly add new capacity and functionality.

Cloud technology exists and is rapidly maturing.

These advances are often driven by collaborative open source initiatives such as OpenStack.

The commercial cloud services market is also expanding rapidly and relying on such open source and sometimes open hardware as well to offer cost effective solutions.

So there elements are there but we have also seen that there are a number of barriers that need to be overcome for this new order to fulfil its potential.

The most point is people and a change in culture will be more difficult than a change in technology.

The open science model implies important changes to the overall research culture and this has only just begun.

It will have impacts on the career development of individuals, on funding models for organisations and communities and the interaction between academia and industry.

Research results, data and software are being shared and used by greater and more diverse groups increasing the rate of innovation.

But the research organisations cannot alone underwrite all of this change.

So we must stop thinking of such change as being a cost and see it for the true opportunity it represents.

An opportunity for the private and public sectors to multiple the impact of their efforts and generate prosperity through innovative products, jobs for our people and a better, cleaner environment for our citizens.

I said the most important point is people and we need cloud-savvy enthusiastic young people to turn these opportunities into reality.

CERN openlab shows how young scientists and engineers can be trained in an environment that serves both research and the IT industry.

Moving to an open science model means change not only for the researchers but also for commercial cloud services providers where competition needs to be coupled with cooperation if Europe is to take a leading role in the global market.

The hybrid cloud model outlined today is a way of making this opportunity happen by bringing these sectors closer together and letting them benefit from each other's developments.

Ensuring the model allows all the stakeholders to participate is the role of governance. Governance must provide the checks and balances to keep this motor of innovation running without over-burdening it with regulation and red-tape.

Standards are still maturing and so we need some slack while ensuring that no single party can monopolise the marketplace.

The success of the UK Government's Digital Market provides a good example here of what could be achieved at a European level.

The foreseen changes to legislation can help create a single market in Europe but to make that market become a reality, as it has become in the UK, requires commitment at a European level.

Helix Nebula has shown us what public-private partnerships can achieve and I am convinced it can lay the foundations for Europe's open science cloud it receives such commitment.

I will like to finish by thanking our speakers for taking the time to join us today, for sharing the views and experiences, all of which will help us build this open science cloud.

I would also like to thank the team that have made this event possible. The Helix Nebula management team and the local personnel, in particular Rachida Amsaghrou and Kostas Papangelopoulos as well as the Audio Visual team.

I wish you all a safe journey home and an enjoyable weekend.