# Proposal for Baseline Services Group

## *Introduction*

The work of the Baseline Services Working Group over the last few months has been very useful in several ways.  First, in following its mandate, many aspects of the experiments' computing models and requirements have been clarified, and a set of basic services has been defined as essential for all of the experiments.   In this process the group has initiated many in-depth technical discussions on various aspects of the computing models, the middleware, deployment issues and associated topics.  Such technical discussions have been somewhat missing from the project until now.  The group has provided a forum where many of the underlying issues (such as security models, interactions with batch systems, etc.) could be exposed and discussed.

In addition, although the group has produced a report on its work, and has outlined an agreed set of baseline services, it is clear that on many of these services much more discussion and work is needed.  In particular, the group did not have time to fully agree interfaces to the services, nor to propose performance metrics or delivery milestones. The members of the group agree that this work should continue with more or less the same group membership, but ensuring that the middleware groups are more symmetrically represented (only gLite was formally present so far), and that adequate representation of the site issues is provided.

## *Proposal*

We propose to the PEB the following two distinct groups:

1.  Continuation of the present group to:
    - Continue the unfinished work of the group as discussed above, and address still open issues,
    - Produce agreed milestones, metrics, and interface definitions for the agreed services,
    - Follow up and monitor progress towards these goals,

    The membership of this group should be the existing members with the addition of a representative of the OSG and ARC middleware providers, and perhaps one or two more site representatives from the Tier 1s.  The membership should however be limited to a reasonable size, and the meetings limited to the members apart from invitation for specific issues.

2.  Technical working forum, to address and agree issues, such as:

- Interoperability between the different grid middleware stacks (EGEE, OSG, ARC)
- Compatibility and coordination with the Applications Area projects,
- Address and resolve technical issues (such as security models, storage access control, etc., etc.)
- Agree on and monitor the development, release, and deployment of services

This group should contain the experiment grid "architects" and the people responsible for integrating the experiment software with the grid middleware (baseline services).  It must also include as necessary, representation of the middleware developers, and the sites.  This group might be where specific issues that need discussion and general agreement might be discussed.  It should also follow up on how things are working and propose ways in which they might be improved.

Group 1 (the baseline services group) should continue to meet regularly – weekly or bi-weekly, while the second group would meet perhaps monthly with announced agenda topics for discussion.   The baseline services group per se probably has a limited lifetime – perhaps the next year as services ramp up to LHC startup, but the second group would be a longer term technical group.