

Worldwide LHC Computing Grid Project Project Status Report Resource Review Board – 11th Nov 2008

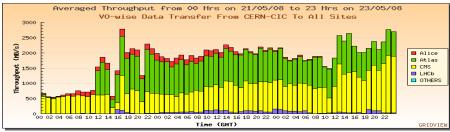
Ian Bird Version 1.0 28th Oct 2008

This status report covers the period from March – September 2008. Further details on progress, planning and resources, including accounting and reliability data for CERN and the Tier 1 centres, and detailed quarterly progress reports, can be found in the documents linked to the <u>LCG Planning</u> Page on the web.

1. The WLCG Service

The Combined Computing Readiness Challenge was the most significant activity in this period, with the second phase being run as planned during the whole of May. Although the full computing and storage capacities were not in place by May, the experiments and the WLCG service did fulfil most of the targets. One of the most important demonstrations from the point of view of the service is that the challenge was run in a sustainable manner. Daily operations meetings were held to ensure coordination and to report and follow up on operational problems. Overall fewer problems were reported daily than had been the case in the February phase and they were resolved faster despite the increased workloads. There were three significant incidents that caused down times and triggered post-mortem analyses. These were all related to power. The first, at RAL, was a micro power cut of a few seconds that took 8 hours to recover storage services, and due to database corruption the GOCDB was unavailable for several days. NIKHEF had cooling problems and had to power off most of the worker nodes for several days. On the final day of the challenge a power cut at CERN took down all of the physics services; these were recovered within 4 hours. The alarm mailing lists allowing the experiments to contact the sites were mostly in place. The need for these during May was minimal. A post-mortem workshop was held in mid June to analyse the experiences and problems during the challenge.

In terms of specific targets, the challenge demonstrated the ability of the service to manage the

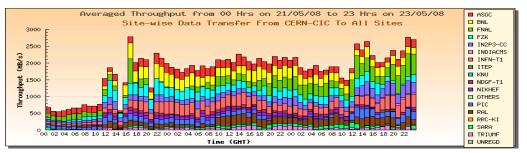


and workloads. Data transfers were shown at sustained rates by all experiments to all Tier 1s at rates well in excess of the required

required data rates

levels. This is





illustrated
in Figure 1,
where rates
well above
2GB/s for
several
days, with
peaks close

to 3GB/s are seen.

In addition to the Tier 0 to Tier 1 transfers, the experiments also demonstrated all required data flows among the Tier 1 and Tier 2 sites. Here again, the results were regarded as very successful with very few cases where the target rates could not be achieved.

The other aspect of scale is that of the experiment workloads. Figure 2 shows the increase in jobs across WLCG (EGEE+OSG+NDGF) during May and continued after. The total workload supported was above 340k jobs/day averaged over May (with much higher peaks), and even increased later to more than 400k jobs/day. ATLAS was regularly running in excess of 200K jobs per day, while CMS averaged 100k per day with peaks up to 200k. These rates are at the scale needed for real data taking, and were easily supported by the infrastructures.

The software process was also demonstrated to work well. During the challenge new services,

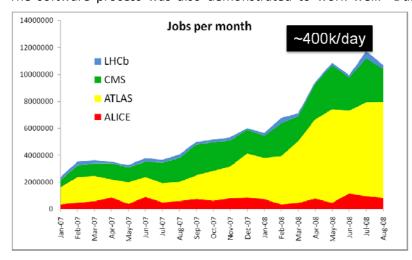


Figure 2: Job workloads over WLCG

security issues, the usual updates and responses specific problems were certified and deployed. This was done with no change in the process, and is important as it will be the usual way of working in production.

The most significant task that was not fully tested in the May challenge was the reprocessing at Tier 1 sites, with data recalled from tape for more than one experiment.

Full details of results and problems can be seen in the post-mortem workshop documents and presentations (http://indico.cern.ch/conferenceTimeTable.py?confld=23563).

Since May the WLCG has continued to run a production level service with the same operational

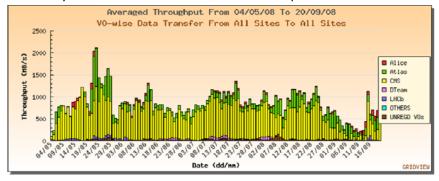


Figure 3: Data transfers Tier 0 - Tier 1 since May

procedures in place. The workloads have continued be significant to illustrated in the adjacent plots (Figure 2, Figure 3) showing the job workload levels and data The throughput rates. experiments have been running simulations and collecting cosmic data at significant levels. The data

transfers have continued to exercise the system and to continually validate the service.

The daily operations meetings track progress and follow up on problems. Summaries are reported weekly to the Management Board, and problems causing extended downtimes (more than a few hours) trigger post-mortems of the incidents. These are discussed in the MB and can lead to a management follow up to ensure the underlying problems are addressed. During the entire period non-disruptive updates to services and middleware took place, in a manner anticipated to be usual in the long term.

Of concern were noticeable absences of critical support staff during the summer and delays in fixing problems with experts being unavailable. This will have an impact on services if such a situation

occurs during accelerator running. It is essential that Tier 1 sites address both service redundancy where feasible, and ensure that sufficient support staff are reachable.

The rate of incidents causing a post-mortem was about 4 per month. Not all could have been avoided by improved monitoring, and indeed close to half of them were due to power or cooling issues or unavoidable failures outside of our control (e.g. major failure of a network provider in Spain). Details can be seen in the most recent Quarterly Report. The most severe service problems were the repeated downtimes of the Castor service at RAL, seemingly due to Oracle database problems and not the Castor software.

One of the main causes of instability was the storage services, with configuration problems causing additional instability. While regular phone conferences were organised it turned out that many sites with problems had not been joining the conferences, or reporting their problems. This situation has improved, with additional agreement on improving the testing and release processes. It is vital that storage system managers report all the problems that they experience in order that this situation can improve. It is also apparent that many Tier 1 sites probably do not have enough staff working in the storage systems area. It is essential that this is reviewed and steps taken to improve the situation as this area is critical for successful data taking.

As noted in the last report the SRM v2.2 deployment had been achieved by the end of 2007 and no significant issues noted during the February phase of CCRC'08. By May all of the Tier 1 and Tier 2 sites were running Storage Elements with SRM v2.2 interfaces (Castor and dCache at Tier 1s, and dCache, DPM and Storm at Tier 2s). During the much more stressful testing in the May challenge some issues were uncovered, both bugs and functional problems.

An addendum to the SRM MoU has been proposed and discussed with all experiments and the various storage system implementers. The Management Board has agreed on the following set of priorities in addressing the shortcomings of the current SRM implementations:

- Highest priority is bug fixes and improving reliability and performance where noted during use:
- Short term functional improvements these is a well-defined subset of the MoU addendum which address specific issues found in May or earlier. The details of these vary between implementations but will in all cases be available by the end of 2008;
- No other development work is requested, until a review of the situation in early 2009.

The major work for the sites now is to ensure that the appropriate configurations of disk pools etc. are in place to implement the various storage classes. Some of these configurations may have changed after the experience in May.

2. Applications Area

In the first part of the year, there has been a focus on improving the software process to have a fast turnaround in case of the need to produce fixes for the experiments during data taking. The new software process relies on continuous software integration and testing using the nightly build system and an optimized release procedure. We have recently demonstrated that we can produce bug fix releases in less than 24 hours for all supported platforms.

Core Libraries: The production release of ROOT in June included a long list of new features and improvements (http://root.cern.ch/root/v51904/Version51904.news.html). Among them there was a re-structuring of the source repository reflecting better the structure of the project in terms of work packages and to simplify the maintenance of the release notes and other documentation.

CORAL and POOL reviewed their database related tests and consolidated the test procedure. The common part of the database related set-up has been extracted into a common module which simplifies running all appropriate tests against all available database back-ends. Some remaining configuration steps duplicated into individual test are now done centrally, which simplifies the reconfiguration of the test set-up and now also allows running database tests in parallel for the different platforms. Progress was made in the development of an initial read-only implementation of the CORAL server, but a few functional and performance issues still need to be addressed before the software can be released. The addition of secure authentication and write functionalities have been postponed and rescheduled as separate milestones to be completed in 2009. A few enhancements of the POOL collections package have been prepared and will be released in Q4 2008. The POOL project was reviewed in May 2008 to identify the steps to be taken to prepare POOL for the LHC start up and for its long term maintenance. All modules (except one that was dropped) are still used by at least one experiment and were moved to a new CVS repository.

There has been substantial progress on porting the software stack (externals, and AA developed code) to other platforms such as gcc 4.3 and VC9. These ports are needed for next year's production releases. No new releases were produced for any of the Persistency Framework projects since the LCG_55 release in June 2008. Several new functionalities and performance optimizations have been prepared for COOL and are ready to be released in the upcoming COOL 2.6.0 (November 2008).

As part of the general effort to improve ROOT documentation and tutorials the documentation of all graphics classes has being redesigned and completed. For PROOF, In addition to consolidation and debugging activities, the main developments during this quarter have been (i) the delivery of a new version of the XROOTD plug-in supporting automatic reconnections in the case of xrootd restarts; (ii) the implementation of a dynamic mechanism for "per-query" scheduling; and (iii) the support for memory consumption monitoring on all the workers as a function of the processing step.

A new version of the ROOT mathematical libraries has been released with improvements in the fitting and minimization. New common classes are now used for fitting all ROOT data objects, such as histograms and graphs, and various minimization algorithms can be used as independent plug-ins. The GUI fit editor has been as well improved by adding the support for multidimensional histograms and graphs.

Simulation and Validation: A considerable number of milestones have been achieved in the last two quarters by the Simulation Project. Extremely positive feedback has come from LHC experiments now starting to use the latest releases of Geant4 in production; four additional public patches to 8.3, 9.0 and 9.1 releases have been provided, addressing issues reported by experiments.

Simulation Framework and Physics Validation have been merged in a single sub-project. In the Physics Validation, the analysis study of Fluka on the ATLAS TileCal 2002 has been completed, showing reasonable agreement with the previous study carried on with Geant4; in addition a new test beam analysis has started, based on the ATLAS HEC setup and is progressing.

The Generator Services sub-project has achieved most of the assigned milestones, providing support and extensions to GENSER, finalising the development for MCDB and bringing its use in production in CMS; a new release and maintenance procedure has been defined for HepMC, leading to new releases achieved together with MC authors, experiments representatives and developers.

In the last quarter, two major achievements were made in Geant4: a preview release 9.2-Beta, in July, and a new patch to release 9.1 (9.1.p03), released in September. Most of the fixes introduced in 9.1.p03 are also part of 9.2-Beta, plus some more, including a fix in the field propagation causing a

rare crash in ATLAS (about 2 per million events). Most fixes are the result of feedback received from LHC experiments and have been made promptly available to aid experiments in their production phase. ATLAS has reported great stability of their simulation based on 8.3.p02 (one failure every 500K events), and is now migrating to adopt release 9.1. The 9.2.-Beta includes improvements in the FTF (Fritiof) hadronic model for pion incident interactions; alternative multiple-scattering models, and the first implementation of a GDML writer as part of the already existing Geant4 GDML plug-in module. The final public release 9.2 is expected for December.

3. Planning during the LHC Shutdown

Following the testing earlier this year and the continued running during the summer, the WLCG service is regarded as being ready for accelerator data taking. Given the extended shutdown of the accelerator there may be a tendency to relax and slow down the service ramp up and provision. Such a move would be extremely detrimental to the quality of the service available in 2009. However, the next few months do give an opportunity to address some of the issues that had been postponed. The discussions in the Management Board in the past weeks have outlined a strategy of three items: resource procurement for 2009, middleware and service upgrades, and service validation.

Resource Procurement for 2009

The WLCG MB has agreed that with the information currently available to us and the present understanding of the accelerator schedule for 2009:

- The amount of data gathered in 2009 is likely to be at least at the level originally planned, with pressure to run for as long a period as possible this may be close to or exceed the amount originally anticipated in 2008 + 2009 together;
- The original planning meant that the capacity to be installed in 2009 was still close to a factor of 2 with respect to 2008 as part of the initial ramp up of WLCG capacity;
- Many procurement and acceptance problems arose in 2008 which meant that the 2008 capacities were very late in being installed; there is a grave concern that such problems will continue with the 2009 procurements;
- The 2009 procurement processes should have been well advanced by the time of the LHC problem in September.

The WLCG MB thus does not regard the present situation as a reason to delay the 2009 procurements, and we urge the sites and funding agencies to proceed as planned. It is essential that adequate resources are available to support the first years of LHC data taking.

Middleware and Service Upgrades

Since several software upgrades were postponed in anticipation of LHC start-up, we propose that the following changes main are addressed in the coming months:

- Deployment of FTS/SL4. This was postponed and will now be deployed. It has been tested extensively.
- Preparation of the middleware worker nodes for SL5. There is already a 1st installation at CERN, to be tested by experiments. The goal is to make this available in parallel to SL4.
- Introduction of glexec/SCAS to support multi-user pilot jobs via glexec. SCAS is currently in testing. This is essential for analysis use cases with pilot jobs.
- Introduction of the CREAM CE in a more aggressive way in parallel with the LCG-CE as the LCG-CE is known to have a limitation on the number of simultaneous different users. Today WMS submission to CREAM is missing, it will come with ICE, on a timescale of months.
- Fix problems in the WMS that limit the number of proxy delegations. This is available now.

• Availability of multiple parallel versions of client software.

The other important area of updates are related to the agreed programme of improvements in the SRM implementations already agreed, and scheduled to be available by the end of the year. It is important that this continue and these changes are deployed before the accelerator restarts.

Service Validation

All experiments are continually running simulations, taking cosmic data, and doing specific tests (and have been since CCRC'08) at high workload levels. This will continue, and so a full-scale CCRC'09 in the same mode as 2008 is not regarded as useful. However, we will perform specific tests/validations:

- Service validation if software is changed/upgraded
- Specific tests (e.g. throughput) to ensure that no problems have been introduced
- Tests of functions not yet tested (e.g. Reprocessing/data recall at Tier 1s)

Details of the test programme will be discussed and agreed in the workshop already planned for November.

4. Site Reliability

The site reliability summary for CERN and the Tier 1 sites for the period April 2008 to September

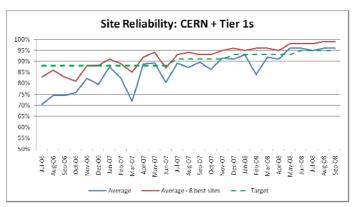


Figure 4: Site Reliabilities- CERN + Tier 1s

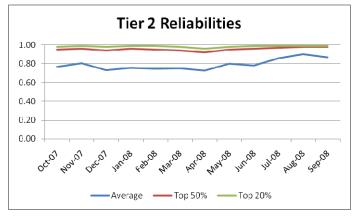


Figure 5: Site Reliabilities - Tier 2s

2008 is given in Table 1. The site reliability target level was 93% until May, and 95% from June 2008. The project target has regularly been The evolution of the achieved. reliabilities for the Tier 1 sites and CERN is shown in Figure 4. It should be noted that the reliabilities improved in May during CCRC'08 as sites were responding problems through the agreed processes. The overall reliability has remained higher than previously as the experiments have continued to use the service at the same level, although during this time several problems have arisen in Tier 1 sites. However, we know that these generic tests do not always show the real problems that affect the experiments. For instance, during August RAL had serious problems in the database for Castor that meant that the ATLAS instance was unavailable for 10 days. This problem is not seen in the generic reliability measure as other services were still available. This is one of the reasons why the VO-specific

measures need to be regularly published in addition to these tests.

Table 1: Reliability of CERN + Tier 1s

Average of the 8 best sites (not always the same 8)

| Apr 08 | May 08 | Jun 08 | Jul 08 | Aug 08 | Sept 08 | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--|
| 95 | 98 | 98 | 98 | 99 | 99 | |

Average of ALL Tier-0 and Tier-1 sites

| Apr 08 | May 08 | Jun 08 | Jul 08 | Aug 08 | Sept 08 | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--|
| 91 | 96 | 96 | 95 | 96 | 96 | |

Detailed Monthly Site Reliability

| Site | Apr 08 | May 08 | Jun 08 | Jul 08 | Aug 08 | Sept 08 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| CA-TRIUMF | 96 | 98 | 98 | 98 | 99 | 96 |
| CERN | 95 | 100 | 98 | 99 | 100 | 100 |
| DE-KIT (FZK) | 95 | 97 | 98 | 96 | 99 | 90 |
| ES-PIC | 94 | 99 | 99 | 99 | 99 | 95 |
| FR-CCIN2P3 | 98 | 97 | 96 | 94 | 95 | 98 |
| IT-INFN-CNAF | 76 | 88 | 86 | 79 | 99 | 82 |
| NDGF | 84 | 96 | 96 | 88 | 43 | 97 |
| NL-T1(NIKHEF) | 90 | 95 | 98 | 91 | 96 | 94 |
| TW-ASGC | 97 | 99 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| UK-T1-RAL | 93 | 98 | 99 | 99 | 100 | 100 |
| US-FNAL-CMS | 92 | 96 | 93 | 100 | 99 | 100 |
| US-T1-BNL | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 95 | 100 |
| Target | 93 | 93 | 95 | 95 | 95 | 95 |
| Above Target (+ > 90% Target) | 7 +3 | 11 +1 | 10 +1 | 8 +2 | 11 +1 | 9 +2 |

Colors: Green > Target, Orange > 90% Target, Red > 90% Target

Figure 5 shows the same measure for the Tier 2 sites. The best 50% (20%) of the sites are consistently more that 99% (97%) reliable although the average of all sites has improved to be around 85%. Again there is a noticeable improvement in the overall reliability averaged over all sites since CCRC'08.

The full report of Tier 2 reliabilities is summarised by Tier 2 federation and by site is given on the web. There are some 120 sites now being reported on.

The detailed comparisons of VO-specific and the general availability measures are in progress and it is anticipated that the project will start to report VO-specific reliabilities in the coming months.

Federations still not reporting include Norway and Sweden.

5. Level-1 Milestones

The full project milestone status can be viewed on the <u>web</u> and is updated monthly. Here we comment on some of the milestones previously noted as late or of particular importance.

24x7 support: With the experience gained during CCRC'08 and subsequent continued production running during the summer all sites now have a procedure and mechanisms in place to respond to operational problems out of hours. This milestone is thus now complete.

VOBox SLAs: In most cases the missing actions are awaiting the experiment formal sign-off on the SLA's that have been defined, although the definitions have been created in collaboration with the experiments. Only 2 sites are delayed in this process. At NDGF VOBoxes are only for ALICE, and the functions of the different boxes need to be well defined. At SARA/Nikhef the SLA is not finalized and will need to be agreed by both SARA and Nikhef managements.

Procurement of resources: The majority of the resources for 2008 have now been installed following the significant delays experienced by many sites as explained in previous reports to the project Overview Board and LHCC. The remaining discrepancies at the end of September between 2008 pledges and installed capacities are as follows:

CPU:

- ASGC: 72% installed, expect to install the remainder in October
- NL-T1: 88% installed

Disk:

- ASGC: 300 TB missing (20%)
- BNL: 1 PB missing, anticipated in November with new machine room
- IN2P3: 700 TB missing, installation ongoing, together with 50% of 2009 capacity
- CNAF: 750 TB missing (60%), delivery complete and installation ongoing
- NDGF: 200 TB missing, procurement is complete, installation ongoing
- NL-T1: 1400 TB missing (56%): lack of available power and cooling; no new estimate yet, but not before mid-2009.

In terms of capacity overall 100% of the CPU pledges are installed, while for disk this is only 80%. As pointed out in the last report this is a cause for concern and a milestone was added for the 2009 procurements as a checkpoint that they were under way in a timely manner. As can be seen in the milestone, the tendering processes are well advanced, but the anticipated delivery and installation schedules again leave little margin for error if the resources are to be fully installed for April 2009. In discussions in the Management Board recently, we have agreed that in future years we will propose a staged installation of disk capacity during the year to alleviate some of these problems. The details of this staging proposal will be discussed in the next months.

VO-Specific SAM tests: The VO-specific tests have been discussed several times in the MB in order that the sites understand what is being tested by each VO and which tests are used to determine the site availability for the VO. These VO-specific availabilities are now being regularly published and followed up by the sites and MB to validate the results. The goal is to have these published as reliable metrics by the end of the year. The underlying tests are already being used to raise alarms at the sites.

SAM testing for OSG: This is now complete. The tests in OSG have been agreed as equivalent to the set used in EGEE, and the publication of the results has been in place since August.

CERN CAF (Analysis Facility): This milestone is also now complete. The experiments have all described at a recent GDB) how they will use the CAF facilities (http://indico.cern.ch/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=20234).

6. Resource procurement

Resource planning process

The current process foresees a 5-year planning cycle for experiment requirements and matching pledges from the funding agencies. Based on experience this now seems somewhat unrealistic from both points of view. There is little understanding of resource requirements 5 years out, and today those estimates are simply extrapolations of the previous year. In addition at the moment before any experience with data it is difficult to understand how to adjust the requirements. Similarly, for many funding agencies 5 years is too long a time scale. Thus we propose a change in the MoU resource planning cycle from 5 years to 3.

The other problem is that the current pledge cycle is too late. By the Autumn RRB at which formally the pledges for the following year are approved, the procurements should ideally be already well under way in order to be able to provide equipment for the Spring. Similarly the Scrutiny process should ideally be looking at the next+1 year as input to the requirement and pledge process.

Finally, as noted earlier, it is probably more realistic to split the storage (disk) procurements in 2 parts with Spring and late summer targets for installation. This proposal still needs some discussion, and would not affect the pledge cycle but would hopefully ease the work of the sites and allow for a slightly better cost optimisation.

Change of CPU accounting unit

The SI2K unit is now obsolete and benchmark values for new machines are not available in this unit. A working group has investigated alternatives and has recommended moving to the SPEC 2006 suite. A team is documenting the details of how this benchmark should be used, and will propose a conversion from the existing requirements and pledges to the new units without changing the existing agreements. For future procurements the new units will be used, and will require the vendors to run the specific benchmark agreed.

Reporting of installed CPU capacity and storage data

In order to completely understand the availability and use of resources the full set of information must include the pledges, the installed capacities, the used resources, the availability of the resources, and the efficiency of the usage. The gathering of data on the installed resources is presently incomplete. The gathering of the information of installed capacity for CPU and storage for the Tier 1 accounting reports is done manually. This is impractical for the Tier 2 sites. A team has been working on automating the gathering of installed CPU capacity and storage resources. Before this can be put into production a thorough validation of the gathered information is needed. This process is just beginning.

7. Status of Planning for the Tier 0 capacity

The capacity in the existing Computer Centre will run out in a few years (~2010) and the electrical capacity to the building cannot be further expanded beyond that which is currently foreseen (i.e. increasing the computing capacity from 2.5 to 2.9 MW). The assumption underlying this is that the resources needed by the experiments will increase by some 30% per year (once the initial ramp-up is complete in 2009). This increase is based on the estimates of the experiments at the time of the TDR (2005-2006), and is thought to be extremely conservative, especially in the light of experience in the past where computing capacity has increased far more rapidly. The estimate is also conservative

in that it assumes that the experiments' software performs at the assumed levels, which is far from true today, and may not be their first priority in the next few years. In addition to the increase, it was assumed that 30% of the existing servers will be replaced every year – typically the systems have a 3 year warranty. Any future upgrade to the LHC itself and the experiments would increase the computing needs in addition to what is currently foreseen.

Strategy and Status

The strategy that is being pursued to address this has several components:

- Expand the capacity of the existing building as far as possible. This includes the upgrade to 2.9
 MW total usable capacity excluding cooling, and the addition of water-cooled racks in the
 basement;
- Aggressive removal and replacement of older equipment with new systems with lower power consumption. This includes replacement at end of warranty (3 years) rather than leaving systems in place for 4 or 5 years as had been the case previously;
- Planning for a second Computer Centre to be built on the Prévessin site;
- Investigation of stop-gap solutions for the 18 months 2 years between running out of power in the existing building and having a new building ready to install equipment.

The first 2 items and a better estimate of the evolution of the power of new systems mean that the present expectation is that the existing building may be able to handle the capacity for the Tier 0 and CAF until the end of 2010 rather than the beginning of 2010 as initially feared.

Planning for a new building

A full in-house design and construction of a new centre is not realistic. In the first part of this year discussions have been held with designers and builders of several CCs and visits to hosting companies and to CCs have also been organized in order to understand the possible strategies to follow.

Tendering directly for turn-key design and construction of a new CC is not considered wise, either within CERN or by external experts. Instead a four-phased process has been proposed:

- Request (many) conceptual designs (~26 companies contacted);
- Issue contracts to the 3-4 companies submitting the most interesting conceptual designs to develop an outline design;
- In-house, turn a selected outline design into a tender specification;
- Single tender for the detailed design and construction of the new CC.

The Price Enquiry for the conceptual and outline designs was sent out in June. The schedule for the above approach is tight, but if maintained, could lead to the negotiation of a detailed design and construction contract by end 2009. Based on an estimated subsequent detailed design phase of ~6 months and construction phase of ~18 months, a new CC could be available for equipment installation towards the end of 2011.

The actual construction cost will depend on the final design selected and this is one of the reasons to select 4 different companies to produce outline designs each based on different cooling concepts. The cooling is considered to be the most important design area. In the price enquiry, the companies were asked to optimize the 10-year cost of ownership. Hence, it might be that we select a design that is more expensive to build but actually due to the annual operation and maintenance costs gives a cheaper 10-year cost of ownership than a design that is initially cheaper to build.

A workshop was held with the four companies in late August to ensure that they all understood the CERN environment and boundary conditions. Interim meetings are scheduled with the companies to discuss progress with the outline design to ensure that these will be compatible with CERN's needs.

The date for the delivery of the outline design is the end of November. However, we hope to keep to the rest of the schedule but this will depend on how quickly we can turn the design into tender documents.

Stop-gap Solutions

Even if this aggressive schedule is maintained there will be at least 1 year, and perhaps 2 years during which the existing infrastructure will not be able to manage the anticipated load, and before a new building is ready. During this time we will have to find alternative locations in which to deploy the needed resources. Depending on the type of facility found this could be physics resources or general infrastructure services. A query to the Tier 1 sites for available capacity was made earlier in the year. At the moment there is an ongoing discussion a facility that may have sufficient spare capacity for us. We expect more detailed discussions with them in the next month or so, but at the moment this is not moving as fast as we had hoped. The UK facility at RAL may also be a possibility, but this is less clear, and may only be available until 2011. In either of these cases we would anticipate locating Tier 0 (or CAF) resources at the remote facilities. Models for management and costs will need to be discussed and agreed.

Other alternatives would be finding a hosting company in the local area. At the moment there seems to be no obvious facility that could host the required capacity, and the costs would be very high. Nevertheless, this option will not be excluded. In this case however, since such a facility would be providing redundant power, and consequently it might make more sense to locate other types of service in such a facility - e.g. Database services where redundant power is essential.