



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council

UKRI Advanced Science & Research Network

Update on Progress towards Jisc Membership

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Current Transactional Agreement

- Current UKRI MoU with Jisc for JANET services expires 31 March 2020
- It is effectively a commercial agreement
- It was placed through a Jisc subsidiary (a Limited Company), it is not direct with Jisc
- As a consequence UKRI is not a true Member of JISC in the same way as Representative Members such as the Universities (HE & FE institutions)
- No formal requirement within the contract for onward development of the contracted relationship and mutual strategy
- Hence, extremely hard to ensure that it continues to align UKRI strategic goals or appropriately balances UKRI research and innovate mandate amongst others.
- ***(Noted, the effective partnering and very good will shown by both JISC, UKRI Councils and many individuals at this meeting who have worked so well to overcome this potential point of friction)***
- Procurement of commercial contracts are subject to comprehensive regulation.

What has been achieved

- Core service requirements gathering across UKRI is complete
- Extensive consultation with Jisc has resulted in a comprehensive proposal which is under review, and includes growth of cybersecurity provision
- Jisc is 60% funded by UKRI through Research England who we are working closely with on negotiations for Membership and the future funding model
- On procurement compliance – A Business Case constructed
- The recommended option for a Single Supplier Agreement for a long term (5 year) agreement between UKRI and Jisc to 31 March 2025 has been approved by UKRI Commercial

Why Membership is Important

- UKRI are seeking Representative Member status (where it represents the research and innovation sector, i.e. as per Assoc of Colleges, Universities UK and GuildHE)
- Clarifying how Jisc Articles of Association may be changed to reflect UKRI as the funding body, not RE
- Jisc and UKRI will need to agree an appropriate governance and performance management model to reflect Representative Member and Funding Body status
- UKRI and Jisc to work in partnership on matters of RDI, technology strategy and the “golden thread of cybersecurity”
- Finally, will need to confirm the legalities of the approach we are taking in terms of services delivered through additional grant funding (in terms of procurement compliance)

Next Steps

- UKRI, RE and Jisc to meet to agree changes to Articles of Association – by 31/01/20
- Stakeholders across UKRI to be briefed on Membership Status, Governance and Funding Models when agreed
- Jisc and UKRI to agree an appropriate governance and performance management model to reflect Representative Member and Funding Body status
- Business Case for future funding of JANET services to be completed, confirming the strategic, technical and commercial benefits of Representative Membership
- Grant Funding Letter to reflect all of the above
- All objectives to be complete by mid March 2020