**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**Between**

**EGI Foundation**

**and**

**Open Science Grid**

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This Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”) is made between:

EGI Foundation, a not-for-profit foundation established under the Dutch law to coordinate the EGI federation (abbreviated as “EGI”)

and

Open Science Grid (abbreviated as “OSG”).

EGI and OSG shall hereinafter be referred to individually as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties.”

The MoU is composed of:

* Article 1. Parties
* Article 2. Purpose and Scope
* Article 3. Communications
* Article 4. Rights and Responsibilities
* Article 5. Funding
* Article 6. Entry into Force, Duration and Termination
* Article 7. Amendments
* Article 8. Annexes
* Article 9. Miscellanea
* Annex 1. EGI Foundation
* Annex 2. Open Science Grid
* Annex 3. Joint Work Plan

# Article 1. Parties

**(a) EGI Foundation**

The EGI Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation established under the Dutch law to coordinate the EGI federation (abbreviated as “EGI”), an international collaboration that federates the digital capabilities, resources and expertise of national and international research communities in Europe and worldwide. The main goal is to empower researchers from all disciplines to collaborate and to carry out data- and compute-intensive science and innovation.

The EGI Foundation has participants and associated participants drawn from representatives of national e-infrastructure consortiums (NGIs), EIROs, ERICs, and scientific communities. These entities provide the physical resources and shared services that enable EGI to deliver, improve and innovate services for communities.

A more detailed description of EGI Foundation is attached as Annex 1.

**(b) Open Science Grid**

The Open Science Grid (OSG) is a consortium dedicated to the advancement of all of open science via the practice of distributed High Throughput Computing (dHTC), and the advancement of its state of the art. The consortium pools resources across a portfolio of awards from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy to provide common services and support for resource providers and scientific institutions using a distributed fabric of high throughput computational services. The OSG depends on its consortium members to provide access to hardware resources. The OSG consortium is not a legal entity in the USA, nor anywhere else. Frank Wuerthwein signs this MoU in his role as Executive Director of OSG, a role bestowed to him for 2 year renewable terms by the OSG Council. His current term ends Summer 2022.

A more detailed description of OSG is attached as Annex 2.

# Article 2. Purpose and Scope

(1) The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to define a framework of long-term collaboration between the Parties to enable the vision of jointly providing sustainable e-Infrastructure services for international scientific research activities.

(2) The parties will continue exploring collaboration opportunities to:

* Coordinate efforts in engaging with scientific communities and providers of scientific gateways of international relevance and in providing technical support to address complex digital needs, for example with joint calls, workshops, and meetings.
* Promote alignment, interoperability, reuse and support of technical solutions and approaches of common interest, including federated data management, data transfer, workload management and federated AAI.
* Coordinate efforts in security operations and policies.
* Ensure compatibility of operational processes and their support tools.
* Coordinate support efforts to baseline middleware components, libraries and other technical components of the EGI Federation and OSG facilities of common interest.

A detailed collaboration plan (the “Joint Work Plan”) is defined in Annex 3.

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# Article 3. Communications

(1) The Parties shall keep each other informed on all their respective activities and on their progress and shall consult regularly on areas offering potential cooperation. Joint working groups may be established to examine in detail proposals in areas assigned to them by the Parties referred to in Annex 3 (Joint Work Plan) and to make recommendations to the Parties.

(2) The Parties acknowledge their obligations taken by this MoU and by the Joint Activity Plan (Annex 3) to disseminate their results, and the task to support and promote the coherent and coordinated dissemination of information on activities such as joint events and workshops.

The Parties shall support efforts by providing relevant inputs and ensuring attendance at events.

(3) No Party is allowed to publish or allow the publishing of the other Party’s results unless the owner Party agrees to the publication.

(4) Each Party shall designate a “point of contact” that shall be responsible for monitoring the implementation of this MoU and for taking measures to assist in the further development of cooperative activities. Such points of contact shall be the ordinary channel for the Parties' communication of proposals for cooperation.

Any approvals, notices, and other communications between the Parties under this MoU shall be sent to the applicable Party as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **EGI Foundation Liaisons:**  Gergely Sipos (Head of Services, Solutions, Support)  *and*  Matthew Viljoen (Service Delivery & Information Security Lead)  EGI Foundation  [matthew.viljoen@egi.eu](mailto:yin.chen@egi.eu)  gergely.sipos@egi.eu | **OSG Liaison:**  Frank Wuerthwein  (Executive Director)  Open Science Grid  University of California, San Diego (UCSD)  [fkw888@gmail.com](mailto:fkw888@gmail.com) |  |

Questions of principles or problems that cannot be solved at primary contact level are escalated to the director of two parties *or Highest Role applicable.*

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# Article 4. Rights and Responsibilities

1. GENERAL
2. Each Party agrees to adhere to applicable policies and procedures relating to the use of the production infrastructure.
3. A Party which makes material, equipment or components available to the other Party, for the purposes of activities under this MoU, shall remain the proprietor of such material, equipment or components.
4. Each Party shall remain fully responsible for its own activities, including the fulfilment of its obligations.
5. PERSONNEL
6. Each Party shall be solely responsible for any personnel hired to carry out work under this MoU.
7. In case personnel employed by one Party temporarily carry out work under this MoU on the premises of another (hereafter referred to as “secondment”), the following provisions shall apply:
   1. The personnel seconded shall be subject to all regulations, including, in particular, safety regulations, applicable on the site of the Party they are seconded to.
   2. The personnel seconded by a Party to another shall remain employees of the Party having seconded them and such Party, as employer, shall bear exclusive responsibility for the payment of salary and for the procurement of adequate social security and insurance, including third-party liability insurance and health insurance.
   3. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties concerned, Intellectual Property Rights generated by personnel seconded by a Party to another shall be owned by the Party having seconded such personnel.
8. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND LICENCE
9. “Intellectual Property Rights” shall mean all intellectual creations including but not limited to inventions, know-how, layouts, drawings, designs, specifications, computer programs, reports, processes, protocols, calculations and any other matter and protected by intellectual property rights, whether registered or not, including patents, registered designs, copyrights, design rights and all similar proprietary rights and applications for protection thereof.
10. Intellectual property rights generated by a Party under this MoU shall be the property of that Party who shall be free to protect, transfer and use such Intellectual Property Rights as it deems fit.
11. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each Party shall grant the other a non-exclusive royalty-free, licence to use the Intellectual Property Rights generated by the Party under this MoU for the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (Annex 3). Such licence shall include the right to sublicense the entities involved in the Joint Activity Plan.
12. OWNERSHIP OF RESULTS
13. Results are owned by the Party that generates them.
14. The Parties give each other – under fair and reasonable conditions – access to results of this MoU needed for exploiting their own results.
15. Results that were jointly generated by both Parties will be jointly owned by the Parties, hereinafter referred to as (“Jointly Owned Results”) and each of the Parties shall be free to use these Jointly Owned Results for non-commercial research activities on a royalty-free basis, and without requiring the prior consent of the other joint owner(s).
16. Each of the joint owners shall be entitled to otherwise commercially exploit the jointly owned Results and to grant non-exclusive licenses to third parties (without any right to sub-license), if the other joint owners are given: (a) at least 45 calendar days advance notice; and (b) Fair and Reasonable compensation. Each Party shall be entitled to disclose such Jointly Owned Results without restrictions unless such Jointly Owned Results are confidential information or contain a Joint Invention in which case no disclosure must be made prior to the filing of a priority application.
17. With respect to any Joint Invention resulting from this MoU (i.e. any invention jointly made by employees of both Parties), the features of which cannot be separately applied for as Intellectual Property Rights and which are eligible for statutory protection requiring an application or registration (herein referred to as “Joint Invention”), the Parties shall agree on which Party will carry out any filling as well as any further details with regard to persecuting and maintaining relevant patent applications.
18. PUBLIC RELATIONS
19. Any publication by a Party resulting from the activities carried out under this MoU shall be subject to prior agreement of the other Party which should not be unreasonably withheld.
20. The Parties may each release information to the public, provided it is not confidential and related only to its own part of the activities under this MoU. In cases where the activities of the other Party are concerned, prior consultation shall be sought. In all relevant public relations activities, the contribution of each Party related to activities covered by this MoU shall be duly acknowledged.
21. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION
22. The Parties may disclose to each other information that the disclosing Party deems confidential and which is (i) in writing and marked “confidential”, or (ii) disclosed orally, and identified as confidential when disclosed, and reduced in writing and marked “confidential” within fifteen (15) days of the oral disclosure (hereafter referred to as “Confidential Information”). Confidential Information shall be held in confidence and shall not be disclosed by the receiving Party to any third party without the prior written consent of the disclosing Party.
23. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Party is entitled to disclose Confidential Information which it is required by law to disclose or which, in a lawful manner, it has obtained from a third party without any obligation of confidentiality, or which it has developed independently from any Confidential Information received under this MoU, or which has become public knowledge other than as a result of a breach on its part of these confidentiality provisions.
24. LIABILITY
25. Each Party shall use reasonable endeavours to ensure the accuracy of any information or materials it supplies to the other Party and of any other contribution it makes hereunder and promptly to correct any error therein of which it is notified. The supplying Party shall be under no obligation or liability other than as stated above and no warranty or representation of any kind is made, given or to be implied as to the sufficiency, accuracy or fitness for a particular purpose of such information, materials or other contribution or as to the absence of any infringement of any proprietary rights of third parties through the possession or use of such information, materials or other contribution. The recipient Party shall be entirely responsible for its use of such information, materials or other contribution and shall hold the other Party free and harmless and indemnify it for any loss or damage with regard thereto.
26. Except in case of gross negligence or wilful misconduct, neither Party shall be liable for any indirect or consequential damages of the other Party, including loss of profit or interest, under any legal cause whatsoever and on account of whatsoever reason.
27. PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES
28. Parties are not prevented by this MoU from participating in activities similar to those described in this document with third parties. There is no obligation to disclose any similar activity to the other Party. However, when considered of mutual benefit, both Parties are encouraged to involve the other Party in similar activities to the goal of disseminating the knowledge about both Parties.

# Article 5. Funding

Each Party shall bear the costs of discharging its respective responsibilities under this MoU, including travel and subsistence of its own personnel and transportation of goods and equipment and associated documentation, unless otherwise agreed in this MoU or by the parties on a case-by-case basis.

Each Party shall make available free of charge to the other Party any office space or meeting facility needed for the joint activities.

The Parties’ obligations hereunder are subject to their respective funding procedures and the availability of appropriate funds. Should either Party encounter budgetary problems in the course of its respective internal procedures that may affect the activities carried out under this MoU, the Party shall notify and consult with the other Party in a timely manner in order to minimise the negative impact of such problems on the cooperation. The Parties shall jointly look for mutually agreeable solutions.

In order to reduce the impact on travel costs, face-to-face meetings should be co-located with other events that participants are likely to attend. Meeting via teleconferences should be considered when the nature of the discussion does not strictly require a face-to-face presence.

# Article 6. Entry into Force, Duration and Termination

This MoU will enter into force when signed by the authorised representatives of the Parties.

Either Party may terminate this MoU for any reason upon 30 days written notice to the other Party.

In the event of termination, the Parties shall endeavour to reach agreement on terms and conditions to minimise negative impacts on the other Party. In the event of the continuation of the present cooperation, the MoU may be extended and/or amended by mutual agreement in writing.

# Article 7. Amendments

The MoU may be amended only by written agreement of the Parties. Amendments shall be valid only if signed by the authorised representatives of the Parties.

# Article 8. Annexes

Annexes 1, 2, 3 attached hereto, have the same validity as this MoU and together constitute the entire understanding and rights and obligations covering the cooperation accepted by the Parties under this MoU. Annexes may be amended following the provisions of Article 7: Amendments.

# Article 9. Miscellanea

1. Notwithstanding anything in this MoU to the contrary, neither Party shall have any legally binding obligation to the other Party as a result of the execution of this MoU, or otherwise relating to this MoU or the subject matter hereof. Although the Parties will try to reach one or more future agreements as to the matters described herein, this MoU shall not require the Parties to reach any future agreement, and, notwithstanding anything in this MoU to the contrary, neither Party shall have any liability to the other Party as a result of the Parties’ failure to reach one or more future agreements.
2. Neither Party shall reassign this MoU or any of its responsibilities without the other Party’s prior written consent.
3. The failure of either Party to enforce any term hereof shall not be deemed a waiver of any rights contained herein.
4. If any provision of this MoU is determined to be invalid or unenforceable under any controlling law, the invalidity or unenforceability of that provision shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining provisions of this MoU.

**Memorandum of Understanding between   
EGI Foundation and Open Science Grid**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused their duly authorised representatives to sign two originals of this Memorandum of Understanding.

The following agree to the terms and conditions of this MoU:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Tiziana Ferrari  Director  EGI Foundation  ­­­­­­­­­­­Date | Frank Wuerthwein  Executive Director  Open Science Grid  ­­­­­­­­­­­Date |

Annex 1. EGI Foundation

The Stichting EGI (also known as the EGI Foundation and abbreviated as EGI.eu) is a not-for-profit foundation established under the Dutch law to coordinate the EGI federation (abbreviated as EGI), an international collaboration that federates the digital capabilities, resources and expertise of national and international research communities in Europe and worldwide. The main goal is to empower researchers from all disciplines to collaborate and to carry out data- and compute-intensive science and innovation.

The EGI Foundation has participants and associated participants drawn from representatives of national e-infrastructure consortiums (NGIs), EIROs, ERICs, and other legal entities. These entities provide the physical resources and shared services that enable EGI to deliver, improve and innovate services for communities. The EGI Foundation coordinates areas such as overseeing infrastructure operations, user community support, contact with technology providers, strategy and policy development, flagship events and dissemination of news and achievements.

The EGI Federation – coordinated by EGI.eu – is one of the largest distributed computing infrastructure for researchers. It leverages the local investments of national research funding agencies by bringing together hundreds of data centres worldwide. It also includes the largest research cloud federation in operations in Europe with tens of participating cloud providers across most of the European countries offering IaaS cloud and storage services.

The EGI offering includes a federated IaaS cloud to run compute- or data-intensive tasks and host online services in virtual machines or docker containers on IT resources accessible via a uniform interface; high-throughput data analysis to run compute-intensive tasks for producing and analysing large datasets and store/retrieve research data efficiently across multiple service providers; federated operations to manage service access and operations from heterogeneous distributed infrastructures and integrate resources from multiple independent providers with technologies, processes and expertise offered by EGI; consultancy for user-driven innovation to assess research computing needs and provide tailored solutions for advanced computing.

The EGI Cloud Federation aggregates resources by defining a set of standard open-source interfaces and protocols to access the different cloud functions - such as resource discovery, user authentication, compute and data access services - in a uniform way at all the sites, enabling workloads to span and seamlessly migrate across resource centers. Through the EGI Virtual Machine image library – the Application Database – EGI offers the possibility to share and reuse virtual appliances and to dynamically deploy them in a federated cloud infrastructure. Besides cloud compute and storage services, the cloud will offer the capability of accessing open datasets of public and commercial relevance for scalable access to big research data, fostering a culture and environment for sharing and reuse of open research data. EGI supports the implementation and adoption of cloud open standards.

The EGI technical platforms are co-developed with research communities and technology providers. In order to do so, EGI has established processes and technical infrastructures for requirements gathering, software validation, verification and distribution through the Unified Middleware Distribution.

Over the last decade, EGI has built a federation of long-term distributed compute and storage infrastructure that has delivered unprecedented data analysis capabilities to tens of thousands of researchers from many disciplines (e.g., Medical and Health Sciences, Natural Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Agricultural Sciences, and Art and Humanities).

Examples of the supported research include the search for the Higgs boson at the Large Hadron Collider particle accelerator at CERN; the search for gravitational waves of the LIGO-VIRGO collaboration, finding new tools to diagnose and monitor diseases such as Alzheimer’s, or the development of complex simulations to model climate change.

Further information (e.g. governance; services) can be found at: [www.egi.eu/about/](http://www.egi.eu/about/)

Annex 2*.* Open Science Grid

The Open Science Grid (OSG) provides common service and support for resource providers and scientific institutions using a distributed fabric of high throughput computational services. The OSG does not own resources but provides software and services to users and resource providers alike to enable the opportunistic usage and sharing of resources. The OSG is funded through a diverse portfolio of awards from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy.

The OSG supports science such as:

* High Energy Physics
* Structural Biology
* Community VO (multiple sciences): OSG Connect

The OSG is primarily used as a high-throughput grid where scientific problems are solved by breaking them down into a very large number of individual jobs that can run independently. The most successful opportunistic applications run on the OSG share the following characteristics:

* The application is a Linux application for the x86 or x86\_64 architecture.
* The application is single- or multi-threaded but does not require message passing.
* The application has a small runtime between 1 and 24 hours.
* The application can handle being unexpectedly killed and restarted.
* The application is built from software that does not require contact to licensing servers.
* The scientific problem can be described as a workflow consisting of jobs of such kind.
* The scientific problem requires running a very large number of small jobs rather than a few large jobs.

Further info could be accessed via <https://opensciencegrid.org/>.

Annex 3. Joint Work plan

To support the collaboration objectives defined in article Article 2 (“Purpose and scope”), a joint work plan is defined and will be regularly reviewed and updated at least bi-annually.

The Parties will jointly deliver e-infrastructure services and support the needs of global scientific communities. The cooperation is focused, but not limited to the following areas:

1. Provide joint support for international communities
2. Establish technical working groups on topics of joint interest (e.g. data management/transfer; AAI)
3. Organize joint ‘call for use cases’
4. Harmonize and align operational activities regarding support to middleware, operational security, libraries and tools

**Joint Activity 1) Provide support for international communities**

The parties will identify research communities of joint interest in using resources/services from both OSG and EGI, and will coordinate support and service delivery for these communities. Examples of scientific disciplines include structural biology (WeNMR), astronomy and astrophysics (LSST, LIGO/Virgo, …), high-energy physics, neutrino observatory (IceCube), and communities providing scientific gateways of international relevance.

**Joint Activity 2. Establish technical working groups on topics of joint interest**

The parties will establish focused, technical working groups to study technologies of joint interest, and to exchange information about experiences with the use of those technologies in federated environments. The first working groups are foreseen to be established on data management and on authentication-authorization infrastructure (AAI).

**Joint Activity 3. Organize joint ‘call for use cases’**

The parties will organize one annual joint open call to expand the group of jointly supported research collaborations. The calls will invite international research communities to express interest in the use of resources/services from OSG and EGI. The parties agree to implement disciplinary cooperation and relevant use cases in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Parties’ governance boards.

**Joint Activity 4. Harmonize and align operational activities regarding support to middleware, operational security, libraries and tools**

The operation teams of both parties will meet on a regular basis to assess operational practices, policies, services and tools with the goals of seeking for harmonization, alignment and adopting good practices in operations and infrastructure oversight.