



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

ER-flow

and

STARnet Gateway Federation

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to define a framework of collaboration between **ER-flow**, a European Project supported by the FP7 Capacities Programme under contract n 312579, with address: Centre for Parallel Computing, University of Westminster, School of Electronics and Computer Science, 115 New Cavendish Street, London W1W 6UW, and **STARnet Gateway Federation** (SGF), with address: INAF Osservatorio Astrofisico di Catania, Via S. Sofia 78, 95123 Catania, Italy (hereafter also referred to as “the Party”). Hereafter ER-flow and SGF are referred to as “the Parties”.

The Parties recognise, by this MoU, the opening of a wider and longer-term cooperation in activities which will bring visible mutual benefits.

The Parties are ready to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding to declare their respective intentions and to establish a basis of cooperation and collaboration between the Parties upon the terms as contained herein.

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1. BACKGROUND

The focus of SGF is to foster a research collaboration for the Astronomy and Astrophysics (A&A) community by means of a federation developing services, such as authentication, infrastructure access, handling of big data archives and workflow repositories. In the past SGF partners have developed some workflows deployed into the SHIWA Workflow Repository to be shared among the A&A community. As a follow-up the corresponding support action projects SGF and ER-flow have established contacts to investigate further collaboration.

The most interest currently lies in the exchange of A&A applications via the SHIWA Workflow Repository. Also, several workflows currently available at the SHIWA Workflow Repository are potentially interesting for the SGF community.

2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The main goals of the activities in the context of this MoU as support to the activities under the ER-flow / SGF MoU are:

1. To explore technology and workflows available through the SHIWA Simulation Platform and any other relevant technologies developed under ER-flow for the STARnet gateways.
2. To facilitate dissemination of the SGF applications available at the STARnet gateways to other communities via their publication in the SHIWA Workflow Repository.
3. To promote and disseminate the joint outcomes of the ER-flow and SGF projects.

Commitments of ER-flow:

- ✦ Inform the SGF community about all the material, guides, training courses that may be interesting for this collaboration.
- ✦ Give training and advice on the usage of the SHIWA Simulation Platform, in particular the SHIWA Workflow Repository.
- ✦ To investigate how to publish applications from the SGF community as workflows in the SHIWA Workflow Repository.
- ✦ Disseminate the collaboration and promote the SGF community and its science gateways as appropriate.
- ✦ Promote SGF as an associated partner on the ER-flow web page and at events organized by ER-flow.
- ✦ Enable SGF participation at ER-flow workshops and meetings as appropriate.
- ✦ Coordinate the collaboration between the Parties.

Commitments of SGF:

- ✦ Explore the usage of the SHIWA Workflow Repository as means to publish the SGF applications as workflows for a wider user community.
- ✦ Explore the reuse of applications that are currently available in the SHIWA Workflow Repository for inclusion for SGF users.
- ✦ Encourage the SGF user community to use the SHIWA Simulation Platform to develop, publish and share workflows.
- ✦ Promote the SHIWA User Forum in the SGF community to be involved in the discussions on the SHIWA Simulation Platform and to communicate their needs.
- ✦ Promote the collaboration with the ER-flow project on the STARnet gateways.

- ⤴ Ensure that usage of the SGF workflow service will not relate to an area under ethical compromise or biosecurity such as military research or bioethical studies.
- ⤴ Participate in at least one ER-flow workshop.
- ⤴ Register the SGF researchers on the SHIWA Portal and Workflow Repository.

3. JOINT WORK PLAN AND TIMELINE

The following work plan will be carried out between the parties

Milestone	Date	Target	ER-flow	SGF
M1	April 2014	Write and sign MoU between projects	x	x
M2	June 2014	Add information about collaboration on respective websites	x	x
M3	October 2014	Get familiar with SHIWA platform		x
M4	April 2015	Publish SGF workflows in the SHIWA Workflow Repository	x (UoW)	x
M5	October 2015	Study workflows of interest in the SHIWA Workflow Repository for SGF portal, and investigate how these could be reused in SGF	x (UoW)	x
M6	April 2016	If reusing is possible (see M5), import new workflows to STARnet gateways		x
M7	December 2016	Final report	x (UoW)	x

4. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

This Memorandum of Understanding will not give rise to any financial obligation between the Parties. Both SGF and ER-flow will bear its own cost and expenses in relation to this Memorandum of Understanding.

5. COMMUNICATION

The Parties shall keep each other informed on all their respective activities and on their progress and shall consult regularly in areas offering potential for cooperation. Brief weekly progress meetings between the technical teams will be organized for this goal.

6. EFFECT AND DURATION

This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of signing and will remain in effect for the combined period of the two projects. SGF is currently scheduled to conclude in 31st December 2016 and ER-flow in 31st August 2014. As such, this Memorandum of Understanding will conclude in December 2016. After the ER-flow project end, University of Westminster will guarantee the cooperation commitments mentioned into this MoU. This Memorandum of Understanding may be extended for a further period as may be agreed in writing by the Parties.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

For the avoidance of any doubt, this memorandum is intended as a broad framework document for research collaboration. Any specifically agreed activities or projects of mutual collaboration arising from this memorandum shall be the subject of separate agreements negotiated by the parties in respect thereof. This memorandum is therefore not intended to be legally binding and no legal obligations or legal rights shall arise between the parties from this MoU. This memorandum will not hinder any collaboration which already exists or will be established in the future by either party with a third party. Nothing in this proposal shall create, or be deemed to create, a partnership, or the relation of employer and employee between the parties nor authorise either of the parties to make or enter into any commitments for or on behalf of the other party. In the event of any dispute emerging, the partners agree to solve the problem by way of mutual and responsible negotiation.

Signed in duplicate by, for and on behalf of ER-Flow on

Dr Gabor Terstyanszky,
ER-Flow Project Coordinator

Signed in duplicate by, for and on behalf of SGF on

Dr. Giuliano Taffoni,
SGF Project Coordinator Delegate