

Executive summary of the 36th PRACE aisbl Council Meeting

The 36th meeting of the PRACE aisbl Council took place in the Novotel Paris Roissy CDG Hotel, Paris, on 18 February 2020.

There is an ongoing need to clarify the future of PRACEdays as a scientific conference in the light of the establishment of the EuroHPC Summit Week. This topic is still under discussion.

The importance of producing a short communication that stresses the need for increased user support and software development for exascale was reiterated by Thomas Lippert and Thomas Schulthess. Serge Bogaerts reported that no progress had been made in this area due to other priorities.

The PRACE Council reappointed Florian Berberich as Secretary of the PRACE aisbl Council. This takes effect as of 2 March 2020 for a duration of two years.

Regarding the closure of PRACE 1, the Council acknowledged that all Hosting Members have fulfilled their commitment to the Initial Period of PRACE by Call 19 latest and approved the entering of Italy as Hosting Member of the extended PRACE 2 Programme with Call 20.

Regarding the extension of the PRACE 2 Programme, there is a principle for the extension of the PRACE 2 Programme including Call 23 (allocations starting in October 2021 for one year), or until the moment it is made obsolete by an agreement of the provision of resources owned by the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking.

Thomas Lippert provided a report of the SWG meeting that took place in January 2020, which mostly concerned PRACE's future in regard to EuroHPC.

The Council Delegates were asked to comment about the main directions of the PRACE 3 Business Plan presented by Philippe Lavocat and to confirm their willingness to go in the proposed directions in the future relationship with EuroHPC. The Council Secretary will organise a high-level meeting between EuroHPC and PRACE as soon as possible.

Council Delegates were asked to provide to the Council Secretary with their comments on the document "Initial Implementation of Access Modes for EuroHPC", by 28 February 2020. Much of the discussions revolved around community access.

The Council approved the membership fee structure, fixing the base membership fee at 51 000 EUR. The Council also approved the budget for the year 2020. The Association Members of PRACE 2 mandated the Board of Directors to use the PRACE 2 reserve for the financing of base operations in case the delayed collection of the membership fees would not allow the association to maintain a positive balance on its main bank account.

Thomas Eickermann presented the PRACE-6IP report. In order to address the recommendations from the PRACE-5IP Final Review Report, a number of new actions have been implemented, including the HPC in Europe Portal, new Peer Review Officers for EuroHPC and the PRACE-6IP project, and the SHAPE+ pilot, providing PMs to partners not involved in the SHAPE programme so far.

The PRACE Training Centres network was expanded with further four centres in Austria (TU Wien representing VSC Research Center), Belgium (UANTWERPEN representing VSC & CÉCI), Slovenia (University of Ljubljana representing the HPC Center Slovenia) and Sweden (SNIC).

Serge Bogaerts gave an update on the search for a 2nd Director and was confident about finding a suitable candidate next month. The Council will be then consulted by e-mail vote. As already reported

by e-mail to Council, the candidate that was chosen during the selection process in fall 2019 unfortunately decided to reject the offer from PRACE for personal reasons.

The PRACE Council approved the Collaboration Agreement between PRACE-CERN-SKA-GEANT on challenges and opportunities of the exascale computing era. The contact person is the PRACE Managing Director, Serge Bogaerts.

Serge Bogaerts gave an update on the status of the new peer review tool. It was previously concluded that the most efficient solution would be to adapt a separate instance of the tool (DARI) developed by CINES for GENCI to support their call for proposals in France. An extensive document outlining the PRACE requirements for the tool has been submitted to CINES.

The Council has approved the addition of the Industry Track to the PRACE Project Access calls under the PRACE 2 Programme. The Council Secretary will, by 21 February 2020, launch a Written Consultation of the Council on the option to distribute resources from EuroHPC petascale systems with Project Access Call 21.

Lee Margetts gave the Industrial Advisory Committee (IAC) presentation. He highlights the benefit of the Industrial Liaison Officer, Wahid Rofagha, doing a great job. PRACE also needs to think how to attract industrial participation to training events. The SHAPE programme is working fine; as an outcome of the last SHAPE call, four projects were selected to be funded and the fifth will be encouraged to apply to the next call. Funding is now linked to any centre providing work to SHAPE projects.