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# PARTNERSHIP FOR ADVANCED COMPUTING IN EUROPE

## Overview of the PRACE Peer Review Process

Richard Tavares, Oriol Pineda, Alison Kennedy

[R.Tavares@staff.prace-ri.eu](mailto:R.Tavares@staff.prace-ri.eu)



**PRACEdays16**

10-12 May 2016  
CET timezone





## Access through PRACE Peer Review



**Free-of-charge**, BUT required to publish results at the end of the award period



**Preparatory Access** (2 or 6 months)



**SHAPE Programme** (2 or 6 months)



**Project Access** (12, 24 or 36 months)

**Criterion:  
Scientific  
Excellence**



# Peer Review Principles

- **Transparency**
- **Fairness**
- Avoiding **Conflict of Interests** at all phases of the process
- Agreement of **PRACE Confidentiality Policy**
- **Right to reply** at the different phases of the evaluations
- **Right to appeal** the final decision (addressed to the BoD)

**Best science supported at the highest level  
through a fair Peer Review Process**



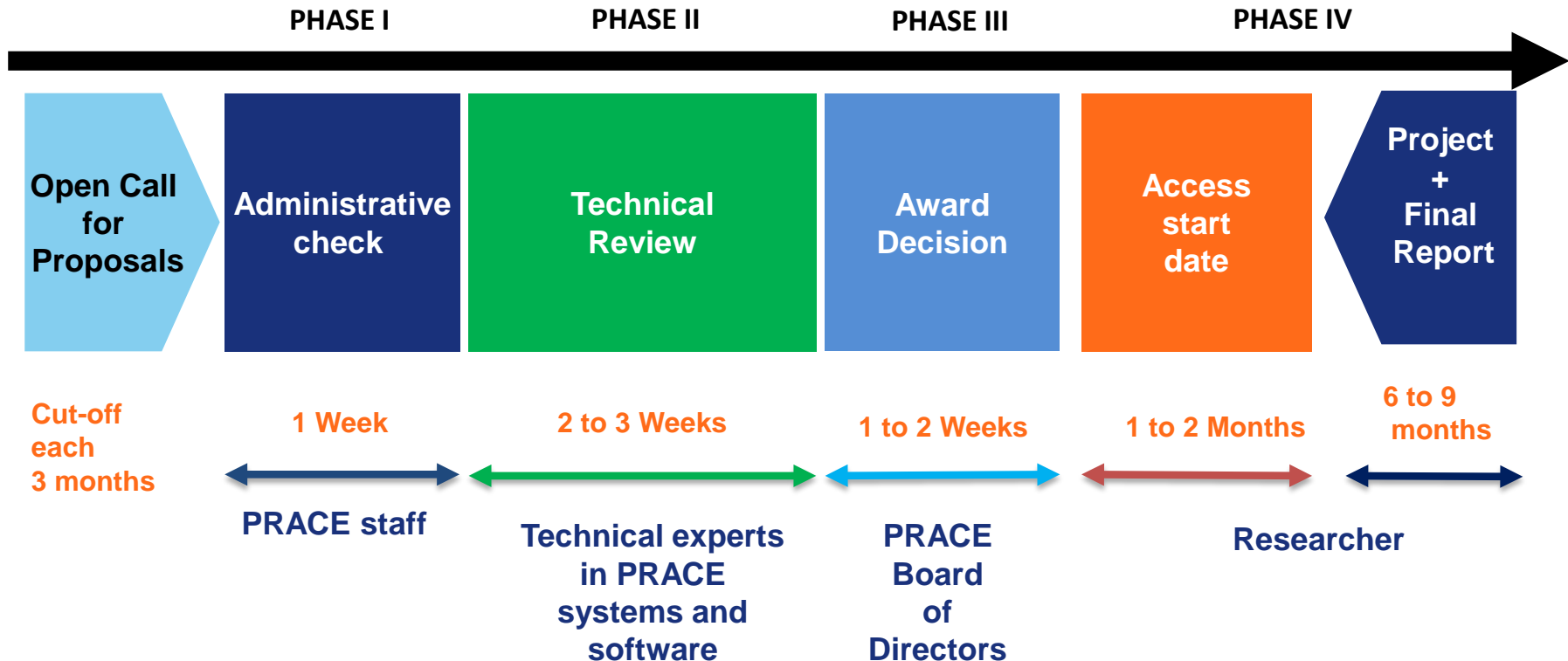
# Types of Peer Review Assessment / check

- **Administrative check** (PRACE staff)
  - administratively **accepted**
  - administratively **rejected**
- **Technical assessment** (Technical experts in PRACE systems and software)
  - **strongly recommended**
  - **recommended**
  - proposed for **rejection** (if not suitable or adapted)
- **Scientific assessment** (Independent experts in the field of research)
  - Comments and score between **1 and 6**
- Final ranking and allocation of Proposals (aka *Prioritisation meeting*) (PRACE AC members, technical experts, independent panellists, PRACE staff)



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## Preparatory Access





# Preparatory Access

- **Open call** – technical evaluations undertaken regularly at **defined cut-off dates** (3 month).
- Proposals **Technically accepted** are **limited** by:
  - **amount of resources available** (Types A, B and C)
  - **availability of experts support** and **type of expertise** (Type C)
- **Oversubscription of resources** - awarded on a 1<sup>st</sup>-come, 1<sup>st</sup>-served basis (submission date), until the resources are exhausted.
- **Tentative cut-off dates:**

01/06/2016 > 11:00 AM CEST	(25 <sup>th</sup> cut-off)
01/09/2016 > 11:00 AM CEST	(26 <sup>th</sup> cut-off)
01/12/2016 > 11:00 AM CEST	(27 <sup>th</sup> cut-off)



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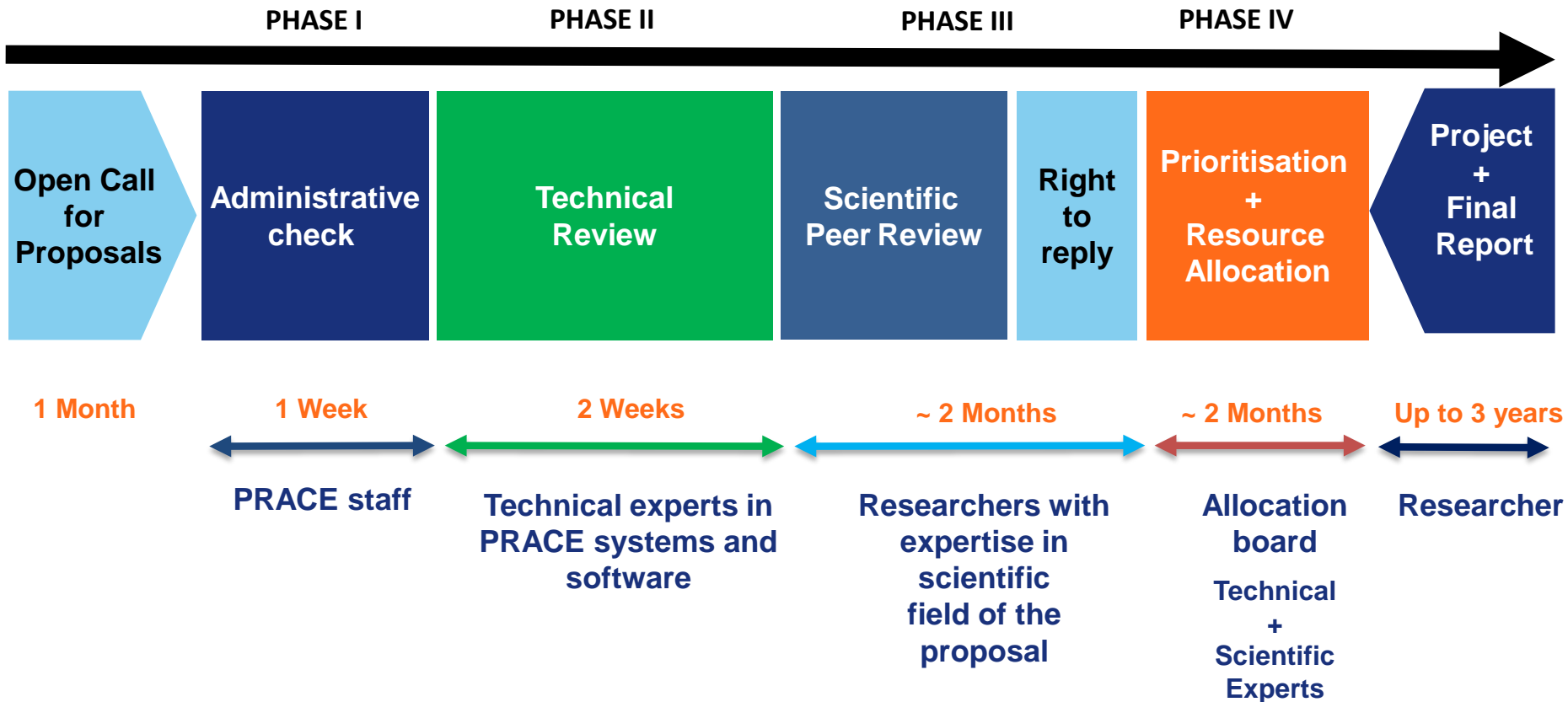
- Designed to **SMEs** willing to adopt/use HPC-supported solutions
- Based on an integrated set of services:
  - **networking,**
  - **training in PRACE Centres,**
  - **expertise provided by HPC and domain-specific experts,**
  - **access to PRACE HPC systems under Preparatory Access**





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## Project Access





# Project Access

- Calls for Proposals are published **twice per year**:
  - **February** > Access starting **September**
  - **September** > Access starting **March**
- Applications **must** use codes:
  - previously **tested**
  - **demonstrate high scalability & optimisation** to multi-core architectures
  - **demonstrate a requirement** for ensemble simulations that need a very large amount of CPU overall.
- Proposals **Administratively** or **Technically rejected do not continue** the evaluation.
- **Final ranking** (Prioritisation meeting) lists proposals in order of priority to provide resources at the allocation session (**priority and resources available**)



# Practical examples

## Preparatory Access

Proposal	Type	Syst	Technical review	Exp. sup.	Comments
2010PA001	A	M1	Accepted		- storage data, memory amount and IOs are OK
2010PA002	A	M2	Rejected		- focus of this proposal goes by far beyond this scope
2010PA003	B	M1	Accepted		- suitable for the system, good work plan and goals
		M3	Accepted		- technical aspects are not critical and memory requirement may have been underestimated, thus it is accepted
2010PA004	C	M2	Accepted	6 PM	- all requirements fit the machine architecture and the amount of support seems reasonable
		M3	Rejected		- Memory requirement exceeds the available memory per core of the system and thus is rejected  PRACE Expert support can be provided for M2 usage



# Practical examples

## Project Access

Proposal	Syst	Technical review	Scientific review	Ranking position	
201512001	M1	Suitable	6/6/6	1 <sup>st</sup>	work plan and goals without award ( <b>top ranked</b> )
201512002	M2	Not suitable	Not done	5 <sup>th</sup> (rejected)	
201512003	M2	Fully suitable	2/4/3	4 <sup>th</sup>	addressed - <b>secondary</b>
201512004	M1	Not suitable (but can move to M2)	4/5/5 Reduce resources	2 <sup>nd</sup>	comments and accept the and resources reduction – <b>medium ranked</b> )
201512005	M2	Suitable	5/6/5	3 <sup>rd</sup>	comments and concerns and viewers. award but with a second



# Short notes

## Preparatory Access

- **Include all team members** in the proposal ([extra user accounts may not be accepted by the HPC centre](#))
- **Check the Terms of Reference and PRACE webpage** before submit the proposal

## Project Access

- Apply **after a Preparatory Access project** (reference it in the proposal)
- **Respect/use the templates and guidelines** (application form and detailed project doc)
- **Include all team members** expected to use the system
- **Reply to reviewers comments** (respecting the limits/guidelines)
- **Contact** PRACE Peer Review Team and HPC centres during the preparation of proposal if necessary
- **Multi-year projects** – work plan and resources distribution per year
- **Industry applications** – important to show its **high impact on European and international science and economy**



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## Thanks for your attention



Richard Tavares

*R.Tavares@staff.prace-ri.eu*





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