

**DSNetUK Steering Committee Meeting
The University of Exeter**

Meeting Number 6

Date: 7th April 2006
Present: Eddie Townsend (ET – Chairman), Xyratex Ltd
David Wright (CDW – Co-ordinator), University of Exeter
Nigel Mackintosh (NM – DTI Monitor), Mackintosh Consultants
Tony Cuzon-Price (TCP), Arithmatica Ltd
Paul Davey (PD), University of Plymouth
David Jenkins (DJ), University of Plymouth

By Conf link Ant Miller (AM), BBC London
Andrew Pauza (AP), Plasmon Data Systems Ltd

6.1 Apologies

Were received from Barry Middleton (The University of Manchester), Paul Nutter (University of Manchester), Des Mapps (University of Plymouth)

6.2 New members

The Chairman, Co-ordinator and existing committee members welcomed the new members to the SC, Ant Miller and Tony Curzon-Price and thanked them for the time they have and will devote to network activities.

6.3 Matters arising from previous meetings

4.7.1 DSnet UK beyond 2007

ET discussed a draft plan for continuation of the network post April 2007. It was agreed that ET would circulate details by e-mail for further discussion at a subsequent SC. [Action: ET]

5.4 NM confirmed that DTI funding for network activities is now very much for large-scale activities (£1million/year) and the committee agreed that such a scale is beyond the current needs/aspirations of the network.

5.3 Topical Meetings

Networked Storage Meeting. It was agreed that this should be held in July at Xyratex. Speakers were suggested, including members of digital broadcasting group and contacts made by CDW at last years StorageExpo in London. It was agreed that ET will finalise program and schedule and circulate details soon to members.

[Action: ET]

5.4 General Meeting

The timing of the next General Meeting was discussed - with a date towards the end of 2006 agreed (following on from the Networked Storage topical meeting). It was

felt that the format of the General Meeting should comprise a number of interesting and prestigious speakers on technical topics, some presentations on future funding opportunities (Framework 7, DTI etc), plus a discussion of future of DSNetUK itself. The General Meeting would also be the natural place to present and discuss the storage roadmap.

6.4 Data Storage Roadmap

This remains to be completed. A section on networked storage has now been provided by Xyratex and a second draft will be prepared for circulation prior to the next SC.

[Action: CDW]

CDW informed the committee that the European Data Storage Roadmap - the IMST White Book - had been updated this year and presented again to EU IST Project Officers at various FP7 consultation meetings. There is a strong likelihood that this will result in data storage having targetted calls in the upcoming FP7 programme.

6.5 Website

The website has been redesigned and updated by Sarah Adam. Committee members were asked to view the website and send comments for improvements to CDW.

[Action: All]

6.6 DTI TP Call update

The DTI call relating to data storage and content is now well underway. ET and CDW reported that it appeared there were at least 5 applications to the call from consortia involving at least 2 DSNetUK partners. The final panel meeting to decide funding will be held in June 2006.

6.7 IMST/EPCOS Conference

CDW informed the committee of the upcoming IMST/EPCOS conference to be held in Grenoble at which all the major EU (and some Japanese and US) data storage research groups and industries will be represented. The EU is also holding a further FP7 consultation meeting at the conference. Attendance of DSNetUK members to both the conference and the consultation meeting was encouraged, and CDW reported that the DTI has agreed to the use of DSNetUK funds to support members attending these events.

6.8 AOB

There was no AOB

6.9 Date of next meeting.

The next meeting should be held in September to prepare for the General Meeting, the Roadmap finalisation and discuss further prospects and plans for DSNetUK continuation post-DTI funding.