



NERC DATA GRID (NDG) PROJECT UPDATE - OCTOBER 2008

Circulation List: NDG-Community, NDG-Technical

In this issue

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Project Summary**
- 3. Discovery Service**
- 4. Project Update**
- 5. Introducing the Team**

1. Introduction: welcome to the second communications update from the NERC Data Grid Medium Sized Initiative Project.

This issue introduces the objectives of the project (in abstract form) as well as some of the NDG team members to you. In the next issue we will introduce other contributors to the project.

We have also provided a short update on project progress and noted any issues that have been encountered. As always your feedback is welcome and appreciated.

2. Project Summary this project is about enabling the reuse of data within and between NERC communities (and other wider communities of users of environmental data). The key components of the current activity are to 1) build a community within NERC who are working not only on serving their own discipline, but on interoperation between their respective disciplines, and 2) provide the key services needed by that community: data discovery and reliable data description terms via discovery and vocabulary services (and appropriate portals). To do these things we are: delivering workshops, focusing on community tools and methodologies (including secure access control technologies); further developing and deploying services bringing standards compliant software to existing and new communities, and; building a longer term strategy for how NERC can integrate and publicise it's data holdings on the national and international stages.

3. Discovery Service: some of you will know that the Discovery Service was unavailable for a few days in November for which we apologise. This was due to difficulties in moving from our poorly documented prototype service (developed in the NDG research project) to a more stable better documented and configured system; in doing so various unexpected issues arose and are being dealt with. The end result will be a far more reliable and stable service. We will be examining the lessons learnt from this and seeking ways to improve the configuration management of the service.

Please note that ongoing problems should be reported directly to

<http://badc.nerc.ac.uk/help/contact.html> or **01235 446432**





4. Project Update

Planning - the majority of the work on the project has now been planned, prioritised and allocated funding. The Project Board met for the first time, minutes of which can be found at <http://proj.badc.rl.ac.uk/ndg/wiki/Management>.

Activities - a functional design for content governance and management of controlled vocabularies has been scoped, discussion can be found at <http://proj.badc.rl.ac.uk/ndg/wiki/NDG3/Vocab/HighLevelSpec>.

Workshops - draft scopes for the **Data and Information Modelling** and **Vocabulary Services** workshops have been produced and are expected to be finalised during December.

Please note that the majority of activities are planned to start in January 2009.

5. Introducing some of the NDG Team

Please note that we encourage all technical queries and discussion to occur on the ndg-technical mailing list: ndg-technical@ncas.ac.uk.

(Sign up at <http://lists.ncas.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/ndg-technical>)

(Details of other team members will appear in the next communications update.)

Bryan Lawrence (Project Sponsor)

Responsibilities - Fit to NERC strategy, community integration, MOLES.

Wiki - <http://proj.badc.rl.ac.uk/ndg/wiki>, <http://proj.badc.rl.ac.uk/ndg/wiki/MOLES>
<http://proj.badc.rl.ac.uk/ndg/wiki/Capability>, <http://proj.badc.rl.ac.uk/ndg/wiki/Community>

James Doughty (Project Manager)

Responsibilities - planning and prioritisation of project activities and finances.

Contact james@diass.co.uk (07985 443973),

Wiki - <http://proj.badc.rl.ac.uk/ndg/wiki/Management>

Stephen Pascoe (Scientific Data Services Software)

Responsibilities - testing and deploying OGC WMS and OWS Common.

Wiki - <http://proj.badc.rl.ac.uk/ndg/wiki/Software>

Dom Lowe (Scientific Data Services Software)

Responsibilities - developing, testing and deploying OGC, WCS and WFS.

Wiki - <http://proj.badc.rl.ac.uk/ndg/wiki/Software>

Steve Donegan (NDG Discovery Service & NERC Discovery Portal)

Responsibilities - developing, testing and deploying improvements to the Discovery Service.

Wiki - <http://proj.badc.rl.ac.uk/ndg/wiki/Discovery>

Phil Kershaw (NDG Security)

Responsibilities - developing, testing and deploying NDG security solutions

Wiki - <http://proj.badc.rl.ac.uk/ndg/wiki/Security>

James Doughty, November 2008

