EUROPEAN HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING
JOINT UNDERTAKING

Summary of the 7th meeting of the Governing Board of the European High Performance Computing (EuroHPC) Joint Undertaking – 4 & 5 June 2019

Executive Summary

The 7th meeting of the EuroHPC JU Governing Board (GB) took place on 4-5 June 2019 in Luxembourg.

The Commission and all Participating States (PS) of the JU apart from SE were present, HR attended only the second day of the meeting. SE gave delegation to FI to represent its interests, while HR gave delegation to BG. From the Observer States, Malta and the United Kingdom were present.

The Commission representative and Vice Chair of the JU, Thomas Skordas replaced the Chair Patrick Garda for this meeting who was on a sick leave.

After the formal approval of the draft agenda of the meeting, the Governing Board (GB) proceeded with exchanges on the different agenda points. The adoption of the minutes from the 6th GB was postponed and a deadline until 12th of June was given to the PS in order to send their written comments.

Main agenda items addressed were: the selection of the Petascale and Precursors to Exascale Hosting Entities, the Research and Innovation (R&I) Work Plan 2019; the HPC competence centres; the model Administrative Arrangement between the EuroHPC JU and the PS; the nomination by the Governing Board of the GB representative and observer in the Consultative Committee on Appointments for the selection of the EuroHPC Executive Director and the calls for tender of precursors to exascale and petascale supercomputers.

The Interim Executive Director presented the revisions on the draft R&I Work Plan 2019 following the comments received after the previous GB meeting and the outcome of the Competence Centres Workshop of May15 in Poznan. An in-depth discussion on the budget contribution of the PS and the default option of model Administrative Arrangement took place. In conclusion, the PS were invited to send their final comments on the Administrative Arrangement and the R&I Work Plan in writing by June 12th and if they are not substantial an adoption by written procedure would be launched.

The Interim Executive Director gave a detailed overview on the evaluation of the bids submitted by the Hosting Entities (HE) and their supporting Hosting Consortia, the selection procedure, the assessment and the recommendations of the observer, and presented the final ranking list. In consequence the GB decided to select the 3 precursor to exascale hosting entities and the 5 petascale hosting entities as recommended by the Interim Executive Director and invited the Interim Executive Director to open the negotiations with all hosting entities in view of signing a Hosting Agreement. In its decision on the selection of the precursors to exascale supercomputers, the GB requested to annex a statement addressing the risk of underfunding by the EU available budget. The selections were approved by the Commission and 92% of the PS that are Member States (MS) representing 94,22% of the MS population.

In accordance with the decision taken at the 6th GB meeting, GB members having a direct conflict of interest with any of the agenda items (e.g. representatives who are directly involved in an application to the Call for Expression of Interest) were asked to leave the room during the discussion, while representatives with an indirect conflict of were allowed to stay.

The GB selected the GB representative and observer who will participate in the Consultative Committee on Appointments for the selection of the EuroHPC Executive Director.

The Interim Executive Director provided an overview of the Calls for tender procedures for the precursors to exascale and petascale supercomputers. He explained the different aspects to take into account, the overall timeline, the next steps and what is expected from the HE during the process. Then he presented the objectives of the EuroHPC JU for the next MFF and how they could be achieved through 3 main Programmes, namely, DEP, HORIZON EUROPE and CEF-2.

The next GB meeting is planned for 11/12 July in Luxembourg. The following meeting is planned for the first half of September, followed by a meeting end of October.