Memorandum

From: GridPP PMB
To: SC2 (c/o Matthias Kasemann)
CC: Les Robertson, Fabrizio Gagliardi

RE : RTAG 11 (ARDA) draft report

Dear Matthias

The GridPP PMB has discussed the draft ARDA Report (as submitted to the SC2 of 7th November 2003) and wishes to raise the following concerns.

- The high level decomposition into Grid Services looks sensible, uncontroversial and a useful basis from which to move forward. However, the description of the service interfaces and functionality within an agreed architecture lacks sufficient detail to enable design.
- There is a clear mismatch between the initial review of DA projects and the recommendations within the ARDA prototype. While we appreciate that this was probably due to the changing scope of the RTAG as it progressed, it means that a review of available middleware products matching each of the services in the blueprint remains to be done.
- It is unclear how existing DA projects will integrate into the ARDA prototype.
- The draft circulated alludes to only "possibly" including multiple technology providers in the ARDA prototype. This would be of very significant concern; however, we believe that these are to be removed in the final draft.
- It is unclear how LCG, being the starting point for EGEE, will move forward with the ARDA prototype in a generic way necessary to meet demands of other sciences. There is much expectation already on EGEE from outside HEP and it could be very damaging (for HEP) to be moving towards rather than away from HEP specific solutions.

We understand the need to establish a usable Grid prototype as a basis set for all the LHC experiments as soon as possible. However, we are concerned that in the next steps, the Grid Service details be elucidated at the outset from a broader technology base than that presented in the document and that attention be given to the issues of a wider, non-HEP user community (e.g. through consideration of emerging standards). Only after the consideration of that broad technology base can the appropriate basis for the prototype be judged, the current suggestions reflecting only the restricted basis originally reviewed.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Doyle (on behalf of the GridPP PMB)