

1.2.1. TCG - TECHNICAL COORDINATION GROUP

The TCG brings together the technical activities within the project in order to ensure the oversight and coordination of the technical direction of the project, and to ensure that the technical work progresses according to plan.

The technical coordination will be addressed by a small group that contains individuals with experience in specific areas. It is important that the members of the group are able to translate the work of boards and high level decisions into concrete technical work and coordinate the technical work on a daily basis, making sure that SA1, SA2, SA3, NA4 and JRA1 have a common view.

This TCG will have members drawn from these activities, who work at a significant level (~50% of their time) on this task.

The group receives and clarifies input requirements from the activities, the steering boards and from short-lived workgroups that define goals in certain areas (e.g. data management, security, monitoring, etc.). The group then prepares, together with the activity leaders, the agreed work plans for short periods and ensures that the plans are realistic, compatible and match what is needed. One of the roles of the group is to document and publicise the discussions and decisions.

The requirements of different user communities and the expectations of different resource centres, as service providers, will be coordinated by the TCG. Such requirements will be effectively incorporated in the deployment of the Grid infrastructure and associated Grid middleware in a cyclical manner throughout the project lifetime.

Another role is to make sure that every activity is aware of standards and to coordinate the contribution to standardisation. The latter can be done either informally by establishing close links with Globus, Condor, and Open Science Grid, or with standards bodies, such as GGF, and in conjunction with the NA5 activity.

The members of the group must have practical experience, sufficient technical understanding and a good reputation in their respective areas. The members must be able to represent the actual status and situation within their areas, to allow realistic planning to take place.

The following expertise is needed within the group:

Each member must have a core competence, and an overview of the whole system.

- Application representatives (from the major application domains, in particular the task force leaders). The application representation will also cover issues associated with the application environment and dependencies introduced by it;
- Grid deployment and operation background;
- Middleware (architecture) and integration background;
- Grid Security;
- Site view (running services, understanding of fabrics, networking issues and costs);
- Application support: individuals who have worked closely with the applications groups and who have good contacts with them;

It is important that the TCG measure success by the scale and usage of the service as the most important metric.

Since the group needs a common view and must meet frequently, the majority of the group has to be located in one place and the rest has to travel frequently or join the discussions remotely.

The hierarchy will be flat, and there will be one central figure (spokesperson) located at CERN. The group will report to the PEB. The Technical Director will be the coordinator/spokesperson of the group, since this activity will be the main tool for managing the technical direction of the project. In addition, a full time secretary to this group is required to follow up on issues, to provide reporting and documentation for the group meetings.

Figure 6 below illustrates the coordination process.

- The TCG gathers input from the stakeholders – the applications (NA4), the operations and deployment groups (SA1), the certification teams (SA3), and the representatives of the sites, security teams, network groups (SA2), etc. This input will be ongoing issues, problems that need to be addressed, requests for additional functionality, changes to existing services, etc. The role of the TCG is to put this list together and prioritise the issues;
- The list of prioritised requirements is used by SA3, in discussion with the TCG, to determine how the problems may be addressed. This might be looking for new services from middleware providers, both inside and outside the project, commissioning fixes,

changes, etc. from the existing service support groups, or agreeing that a tool or patch will be addressed by SA3;

- SA3 returns this proposal to the TCG for discussion and eventual agreement. The TCG then, together with the activity leaders proposes short term work plans for the relevant activities. This includes: developments needed by JRA1, list of components needed in the next SA3 distribution, etc.;
- The TCG will then follow up on the progress of these plans, but will adapt them in the light of changing circumstances – e.g. if a middleware component proposed for a release is found not to be good enough, then a decision about rejecting or delaying the release must be made;

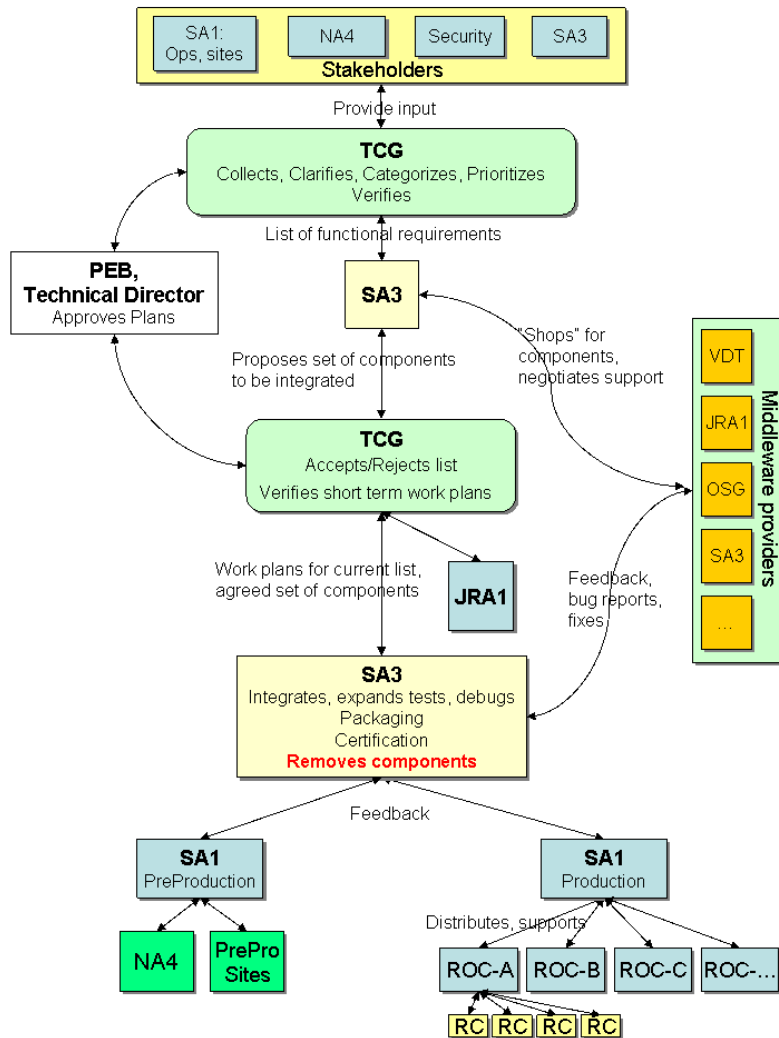


Figure 6: TCG coordination process