

12 May 2010

Computation and Data Committee Report to the CASCA Board, May 2010

Submitted by David Bohlender, Chair

Current members of the Committee and their terms are as follows:

Jonathan Dursi (CITA): 31 June 2011

James Wadsley (McMaster U.): 31 December 2010

JJ Kavelaars (HIA/NRC/CADC): 31 June 2011

David Bohlender (HIA/NRC/CADC): 31 December 2010

As part of the Long Range Plan 2010 exercise, the committee was asked to prepare a White Paper on Canadian Astronomical Computing, Data and Network Facilities and this was the main activity of the Committee since the last report to the Board. Input for the LRP document was solicited from the community via the CASCA exploder. The completed document was subsequently submitted to the LRP2010 panel on 16 February 2010. The document can be found on-line at http://www.casca.ca/lrp2010/Docs/LRPReports/CDandN_WP.pdf.

Key conclusions of the Computing, Data and Network White Paper include:

- a recommendation that Compute Canada should be funded at a level of \$72M/yr to remain competitive with other G8 countries. This funding level would include a top-20 class computing facility as part of every refresh and a tripling of technical analyst staff. The funding must also be stable over timescales much longer than five years in order to facilitate long-term planning as well as long-term projects.
- a recommendation that the national network must be brought up to a level commensurate with the rapid increase in available computing power since the last LRP, i.e. 10 Gb/s.

We note that the terms of two members of the Committee will come to and end at the end of 2010. Consideration of possible replacements should begin soon.