



National Federated Compute Services NetworkPlus

Welcome to:

This is the Roadmap!

The **National Federated Compute Service—NetworkPlus** Reporting Conference brings together the outcomes, insights, and recommendations from 26 pioneering Flexible Fund projects shaping the future of Digital Research Infrastructure federation in the UK.

Over the next two days, our speakers will present the evidence, community perspectives, and strategic recommendations emerging from one of the most comprehensive investigations into UK-wide DRI federation ever undertaken.

We'll explore:

- The key recommendations for future DRI federation.
- The evidence and findings underpinning the roadmap.
- The projected impact across research communities and institutions.
- Real-world experiences from existing and emerging federated communities.



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Pekka Lehtovuori, PhD. Is a director at CSC - IT Center for Science. He is responsible for the operations and development of Finland's national High Performance Computing and Cloud Computing environments, as well as EuroHPC LUMI and LUMI AI systems. He has been active in European computing infrastructure activities close to twenty years. Lehtovuori leads the implementation and operations of EuroHPC Federation Platform.



Dr. Christian Cole is Reader in Health Informatics and Academic co-Director of Health Informatics Centre (HIC), Faculty of Health, University of Dundee. His research interests are in developing tools and infrastructure to advance data analysis capabilities within Trusted Research Environments (TREs) from which sensitive data can be securely accessed. He is also interested in making AI/ML more directly clinically relevant by using real-world datasets to better model the diversity of data.



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Prof. Dr. York Sure-Vetter was appointed Director at the German National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI) in 2020. His research interests include Artificial Intelligence and Data Science. Prof. Sure-Vetter obtained a Diploma in industrial engineering and completed his doctorate on the topic of ontologies and knowledge management at the University of Karlsruhe (TH). From 2007 to 2009 he was Senior Researcher at SAP AG. From 2009 to 2015 Prof. Sure-Vetter was President of the GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, the major German research infrastructure for the social sciences. In 2015, he was appointed as professor at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in the Institute of Applied Informatics and Formal Description Methods and chaired the executive board of AIFB as elected spokesperson from 2015 to 2020.



Dr. Rob Baxter is National Digital Infrastructure Technical Lead on the DARE UK Programme. His day job involves figuring out how the UK can connect all its Trusted Research Environments together in a coherent and self-consistent way, without scaring the public and without breaking the law. Before he joined DARE UK he was at EPCC, the supercomputing centre at the University of Edinburgh, for nearly three decades, latterly as Director of Data Services. In that role he looked after numerous projects and systems, including the Scottish National Safe Haven and the Scottish Medical Imaging Archive. And once upon a time he used to be a theoretical physicist.



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Prof. Andrew Morris is a professor of computational physics at the University of Birmingham (UoB), with 20+ years' experience using and running high-performance computers. He is Director of the £18.6M UKRI funded Baskerville National Compute Resource hosted at UoB.

Within Birmingham he is Chair of the university-wide Research Computing Management committee, which oversees the academic needs of all research computing at the university.

He is a member of the Institute of Physics' Computational physics group committee and external examiner for the University of Cambridge's Masters programme in Scientific Computing.



Prof. Jonathan Hays is a Professor of Physics at Queen Mary University of London. Together with Sadaf Alam, Jon leads the National Federated Compute Services Network Plus Programme. He is Science Director of the STFC IRIS Federation and a member of the project board of the GridPP Project.

Jon completed his PhD in Experimental Particle Physics at Imperial College London in 2000. He worked as a postdoctoral research associate first for Imperial and then from 2004 for Northwestern University based at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory near Chicago. In 2006 he took up a PPARC Advanced Research Fellowship at Imperial College. In 2012 he joined Queen Mary as a Lecturer with promotion to Professor in 2021.



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Dr. Sadaf Alam is the Chief Technology Officer for Bristol Centre for Supercomputing, home to Isambard 3 and Isambard-AI, part of the national AI Research Resource (AIRR).

Sadaf was technical lead for the AIRRFED project that led to the deployment of an operational AIRRPORT platform. Prior to joining Bristol, Dr Alam was the CTO at the Swiss National Supercomputing Centre (CSCS). She was chief architect for two generations of the Piz Daint innovative flagship supercomputing facilities, Alps and the MeteoSwiss operational weather forecasting platforms. She was a co-lead for Fenix, a European funded project for delivering federated computing and data e-Infrastructure services. Prior to CSCS, she was a computer scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and a staff scientist at the Leadership Computing Facility.



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10th and 11th of September 2026

Day 1

Time Session

Presenter

10:30	Registration & Refreshments	
11:00	Welcome / Conference Aims & Objectives	Jon Hays (NFCS Lead Team)
11:10	UK Digital Research Infrastructure and Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade update	Monica Dahiya (DBIST) & Ben Yarnall (UKRI)
11:30	National Federated Compute Services: The Destination and the Roadmap	Jon Hays (NFCS Lead Team)
12:15	Panel Discussion: What is Federation—Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow	Moderator: Sadaf Alam (NFCS Lead Team) Panel: Chris Cole (University of Dundee) Pekka Lehtovuori (IT Center for Science) Jon Hays (NFCS Lead Team) Richard Bailey (UKRI)
13:00	Lunch	
NFCS Collaborate Session		
14:00	Roadmap Recommendations Panel Discussion: Technology	Moderators: Kieran Leach (NFCS Lead Team) Jeremy Yates (NFCS Lead Team) Panel: Alastair Basden (Durham University) Claire Ellul (UCL) James Richings (EPCC) Wojciech Turek (University of Cambridge)
15:30	Poster Session with refreshments	
16:30	The NFDI Experience	York Sure-Vetter (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology)
17:00	Conference Photograph and end of day 1	
19:30	Conference Dinner in the Natural History Gallery	



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Day 2

Time Session

Presenter

09:30 Registration & Refreshments

NFCS Coordinate Session

10:00 Federation: the view from DARE UK

Rob Baxter (DARE UK)

10:30 Roadmap Recommendations Panel Discussion: **Governance**

Moderator: Adrian Hines (NFCS Lead Team)

Panel: Laura Crawford (The Rosalind Franklin Institute)

David Crooks (STFC)

Allison Littlejohn (UCL)

Poppy Townsend (STFC RAL)

Tariq Umar (University of the West of England)

12:00 Lunch and Poster Session

NFCS Connect Session

13:00 The NCR Community and Federation

Andrew Morris (University of Birmingham)

13:30 Roadmap Recommendations Panel Discussion: **Community**

Moderator: Jo Beech-Brandt (NFCS Lead Team)

Panel: Stephen Booth (EPCC)

Arun Nambiyath Govindan (KCL)

Karina Rodriguez (University of Brighton)

Danielle Paul (University of Bristol)

Greg Warren (University of Leicester)

14:45 Forward look and Conference Close

Jon Hays (NFCS Lead Team)