

October 9, 2012

Mr. John Towns
National Center for Supercomputing Applications
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
1205 W. Clark St., Room 1008
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear John,

The Open Science Grid (OSG) project wishes to participate in the XSEDE Federation as a Level 2 Service Provider (SP). Via provisioning of an overlay High Throughput resource management system, we enable access to over 100 sites in the OSG production fabric that provides distributed high-throughput computing (DHTC) for a broad spectrum of research communities. These resources are contributed by members of the OSG Consortium and a portion of the unused capacity, "opportunistic cycles", will be made available to XSEDE allocations; currently we plan to offer about 2M hours per quarter but this can be adjusted based on demand and joint agreement between the OSG Consortium and the XSEDE Federation. We are also committed to work with the Extended Collaborative Support Services (ECSS) team in developing expertise to assist researchers new to DHTC and will collaborate with the Campus Champions program and Campus Bridging initiatives to bring the benefits of DHTC to researchers and educators on the campuses.

This level of integration of OSG and XSEDE services will enhance the productivity of researchers in the US by providing coordinated access to HTC computing resources. As a leader in definition and adoption of DHTC, we are committed to deploying our experience and technology to increase and improve the sharing and access to the broad variety of distributed computing assets that exist in the national CI; we plan to integrate software technology and provide services that will enable federation of computing resources for researchers and campuses. In addition, we expect that access to additional HTC computing through XSEDE allocations will lead to improved matching of science applications to computing resources and thus better overall utilization of the national CI.

Our participation in the XSEDE Federation will assist OSG in reaching additional communities and researchers through the allocation process and via the Campus Champions and Campus Bridging programs. Thus our staff will obtain additional knowledge about the services needed to better serve campus researchers, especially outside the HEP community. We also look forward to synergistic efforts with the XSEDE project in areas of mutual interest (e.g. accounting, monitoring, identity management); of special note is leveraging this partnership to continue and improve our workforce development programs, including the summer schools for students.

We have reviewed the published version of the XD Service Providers Forum: Charter, Membership, and Governance document (https://www.xsede.org/documents/10157/281380/SPF_Definition_v10.1_120228.pdf) defining the mutual responsibilities of XSEDE and a level 2 SP and are confident that we can and will fulfill our obligations as described therein. In the event that you have an issue with our performance, please contact me, directly. Similarly, if we perceive an issue, we will contact you. In either case, we commit to work with you to resolve any issues.

The Open Science Grid project looks forward to working with the XSEDE project to advance the NSF mission of advancing the nation's research capability via a national advance computing infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Livny". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "y" at the end.

Miron Livny,
Open Science Grid PI

cc:

Lothar Bauerdick, OSG Executive Director
Ruth Pordes, OSG Council Chair