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The work of Helix Nebula [1] has shown that it is feasible to interoperate in-house IT resources of research organisations, publicly funded e-infrastructures, such as EGI [2] and GEANT [3], with commercial cloud services. Such hybrid systems are in the interest of the users and funding agencies because they provide greater “freedom and choice” over the type of computing resources to be consumed and the manner in which they can be obtained.

Propelled by the growing IT needs of the Large Hadron Collider and the experience gathered through deployments of practical use-cases with Helix Nebula, CERN is leading a H2020 Pre-Commercial procurement activity that brings together a group of 10 of Europe’s leading research organisations to procure innovative IaaS level cloud services for a range of scientific disciplines [4].

The European Commission has committed to establish an Open Science Cloud starting in 2016 for European researchers and their global scientific collaborators by integrating and consolidating e-infrastructure platforms, federating existing scientific clouds and research infrastructures, and supporting the development of cloud-based services [5]. HNSciCloud is foreseen to contribute to the European Open Science Cloud.

References:

- 1 <http://www.helix-nebula.eu/>
- 2 <http://www.egi.eu/>
- 3 <http://www.geant.net/>
- 4 <http://www.hnscicloud.eu>
- 5 http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=15266

Presenter: Dr JONES, Robert (Coordinator of the HNSciCloud Horizon 2020 Pre-Commercial Procurement project)