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Dear Andy

I'm writing to confirm our recent discussions with respect to our plans for collaboration with the VOTC project. It is clear there is room for considerable benefit for both parties by combining our expertise in this area. As we discussed, from the e-Science perspective this should not only provide specific benefit to the space and astronomy communities, but in so-doing, may help to give us insight into further development of the IRODS and related virtual storage agenda for STFC facilities. Specific resourcing is currently under discussion and depends upon the synergies we can leverage, but it would be sensible to arrange a meeting of relevant technical experts at the earliest opportunity – I suggest ASAP after the IVOA meeting in Strasbourg. I agree that hosting someone from VOTC at RAL for an extended period would be an excellent way of kick-starting the technical collaboration. The following areas in particular should be on the agenda for the post Strasbourg meeting:

- (1) A general study of astro and non-astro e-science technologies, with a view to developing their integration. This should be broad initially, but systematic and simple, focusing on a few areas of compatibility for detailed development. (ESC staff to include: Gordon Brown, David Corney, Tim Folkes)
- (2) Integration of VOSpace and data storage services developed by the STFC e-Science centre, and development and deployment of an IRODS/ VOSpace service and user interface. (ESC staff to include: Roger Downing, Cheney Ketley)
- (3) Establishing a series of high- end astronomical applications on the NGS as VO-standard CEA style remote applications. (ESC staff to include: Andrew Richards, Duncan Tooke)
- (4) Establishing a common approach to access control to STFC facilities, developing methods of expressing identity and authorisation that does not require full Grid-style certificate authorisation. (ESC staff to include: Jens Jensen, Andrew Richards)

Yours sincerely

Director, e-Science



