Vienna Scientific Cluster

Access Regulations

Preamble

Access to the *Vienna Scientific Cluster (VSC)* is based on *Projects* that have generally gone through a peer-review process and demonstrate not only scientific excellence, but also the need for extremely high computing power.

The Operating Regulations apply to the execution of *Projects*.

Definitions

see Operating Regulations Annex 1. Defined terms are in *Italic*.

Authorised Institutions

The use of the *VSC* generally requires the membership in an *Authorised Institution*. *Partner Universities* of the *VSC* are authorised institutions. The contributions of the *Partner Universities* to the VSC budget cover the usage costs for all types of *Projects* of the respective university, with the exception of *External Projects*. Other universities and scientific institutions can be admitted as *Authorised Institutions*. These have to pay for the used computing time according to the published Price Sheet (https://vsc.ac.at//fileadmin/user_upload/vsc/vsc-rules/VSC_Price_Sheet_2023-04-13.pdf). Admission as an *Authorised Institution* can be granted within the framework of a joint project or other agreement, which also specifies the modalities of billing.

Project Managers from *Authorised Institutions* are authenticated via a system of their *Institution*.

Access for External Customers

The *VSC* is also generally available to *External Customers* for *External Projects.* This includes both *Scientific Customers,* i.e. scientific institutions outside the circle of *Authorized Institutions* and *Commercial Customers* (companies). Regarding the distinction between external scientific and external commercial customers, see the operating regulations, Appendix 1 "Definitions".

For the use of the *VSC* by *External Customers*, costs are charged according to the pay-per-use principle in accordance with the currently valid price list. External *Scientific Customers* are charged the cost price, while market-based prices apply to *Commercial Customers*.

The *Projects* of *External Customers*, as with all other *Projects*, are managed with the help of the *Service Website*, but are not subject to peer review by the *VSC*. The Operating Regulations also apply to *External Projects*, with particular reference to data security regulations. Accounting data for individual *Jobs* and/or periods are transmitted on request.

It is intended to allocate a maximum of 10% of the total available resources to *External Customers* under the specified conditions. A maximum of 3% of the total available resources may be allocated to an *External Customer* (institution or company) for a maximum of 1 year. The projects will be approved by the *SC*

As part of the procurement of a new *System*, computation time can be purchased over the entire life span of the *System* at a subscription price, which generally has to be paid in advance. The *External Customer* acquires an intangible right of use. Such agreements are to be approved by the *SC*.

Project Application

A project application for approval of a *Project* is submitted electronically by the *Project Manager* via the *Service Website* and is generally addressed to the *SC*. To select the type of *Project* see appendix 2. The provision of resources at the *VSC* is confirmed only after the approval of the *Project*. A commitment of the (presumptive) *Project Manager* concerning the availability of resources to third parties (such as sponsors or cooperation partners) prior to approval of the *Project* is not permitted.

The project application must contain:

- Project Title
- *Project Manager* including contact details
- Affiliation of the *Project Manager* to an *Institution*
- Brief description of the software to be used, including previous experience in terms of runtime, parallelisation and efficiency
- Expected start time of the project, if an immediate start is not desired.
- Requested project duration
- Requested computation time measured in core hours[1]
- Number of cores needed at the same time (estimate)
- Requested mass storage
- Information on whether the *Project* will store and/or process personal data within the meaning of the GDPR on the *VSC Systems*.

Additional information required in the case of a *funded project* or *application project:*

- Grant agency
- Project number (if available)
- Total approved or requested funding
- Approval date or expected approval date
- Short scientific description of 1–2 pages, for example the abstract of the funding application
- Letter of approval from the grant agency (for funded projects)

Additional information required in the case of an *Internal Project:*

- Short scientific description of about 5 pages for peer review
- Suggestion of at least 3 reviewers without conflicts of interest

Additional information required in the case of an *External Project*:

- Short description of the planned calculations
- Grant agency or project partners
- Purchase order for the computing time or binding declaration regarding the assumption of costs

N.B.: This information is not required, for *Projects* assigned to a *Parent Project* of an *Authorized Institution*.

[1] A conversion of the accounting system from core-h to another unit, e.g. token is planned.

Notes on the project proposal:

- After creating the *Project*, it is possible to upload files on the *Service Website*. All information for which no data fields are provided on the *Service Website*, such as project descriptions, can be transmitted in this way.
- A *Data Protection Relevant Project* is requested by selecting "Personal Data YES" on the *Service Website*.
- After applying for a *Data Protection Relevant Project*, the *VSC Team* will contact the *Project Manager* for the necessary further steps.

Approval Procedure

Project applications will initially be sent to the *VSC Team* for the evaluation of technical feasibility, including availability of the software and availability of requested resources. The reviewed applications, with the exception of *Test Projects* and *Private Projects*, are then forwarded electronically to the *SC*.

Project applications for *Funded Projects* are dealt with directly in the decision-making process of the *SC*. The *SC* decides on the approval or rejection of the *Project* and the allocation of resources to the *Project*.

Project applications for *Application Projects* are treated as *Funded Projects*. After approval of the *Project* by the grant agency, no additional decision by the *SC* is necessary.

Project applications for *Internal Projects* will be sent to reviewers upon receipt by the *SC*. These may be those proposed by the applicants or other reviewers. One designated member of the SC of the *Institution* of the *Project Manager* is responsible for this assessment. The number of reviewers is determined by the *SC* depending on the scope of the project and amounts to a maximum of 3. In the case of positive opinions, for *Internal Projects* are subsequently treated as *Funded Projects.*

/Applications for (internal) *Small Projects* are approved by the responsible member in the *SC* of the *Project Manager*'s *Institution* based on the short description submitted with the project application. A peer review process is not required for *Small Projects*. If a *Small Project* exceeds the limit specified in the operational regulations at a later date by applying for additional resources, a peer review must be carried out based on an interim report. If at least one peer-reviewed publication is available at this point, there is no need for further peer review of the *Small Project*.

Project proposals for *External Projects* will be approved by the *SC* subject to available resources.

In any case, *Projects* that touch ethical issues must be explicitly approved by the *SC*. These include, but are not limited to, *Projects* that affect people's privacy or whose results are classified as Dual Use. Dual Use includes results with potential military or terrorist applications or abuses. Approval by the *SC* requires compliance with the applicable ethics rules and the possibly required approval of an ethics committee and does not replace either.

The *SC* allocates resources for which the following are considered:

- Requested resources
- Result of the review (for *Internal Projects*)
- Opinion of the *VSC Team*
- Available resources relative to the total amount of resources requested
- Distribution of the total consumption of resources among the *Partner Universities*

Project decisions of the *SC* are generally made electronically via the *Service Website*. It is the sole responsibility of the respective *Partner University* to decide who will be sent as representative of their university into the project approval process to the *SC*.. Initially, the representatives of the university to which a project is assigned decide on the approval or rejection of the project. When exceeding a resource allocation of 5 million core hours, the representatives of the other universities in the *SC* are informed about this project application and given the opportunity to reject the *Project* for important reasons (see Item 4.3 of the Letter of Understanding of 13.11.2008). *External Projects* which are not assigned to a *Parent Project* of an *Authorized Institution* must be approved by the representatives of all *Partner Universities*.

A *Project* that is assigned to a *Parent Project* of an *Institution* that is not a *Partner University* is only subject to an internal decision-making process of the corresponding *Institution*. Once the *Project* is approved, it will be treated as an approved *Project* assigned to a *Partner University*. The internal approval workflow of the respective *Institution* is set up by the *VSC Team* on the *Service Website* as required. The resource consumption of such *Projects* is billed via the corresponding *Parent Project*.

Parent Projects that are not assigned to a *Partner University* must be approved by representatives of all *Partner Universities*.

Adjustment of resource allocations

If resources are no longer available for the awarding of new *Projects*, the *SC* can redistribute the *VSC* resources. This includes extending allocated resources over a longer period or, in exceptional cases, reducing them. However, prior consultation with the *Project Managers* concerned must ensure that their contractual obligations can continue to be met. If this is not the case, the redistribution of resources should be adjusted accordingly.

At the request of the *Project Manager*, the *SC* may also increase the resource allocation for a *Project*. The corresponding decision-making procedure corresponds to that of a *Funded Project*. Special regulations for *Small Projects* must be taken into account for applications for additional resources.

Final provisions

This access regulation was issued in the German original version by the resolution of the *Steering Committee* of 07.09.2009 and in the present version by the resolution of 05.05.2023 and can be changed at any time by a further resolution of the *Steering Committee*.

Annex 1

Grant Agencies with recognised peer-review process:

FWF	Austrian Science Fund All funding lines, including the ERA-NET projects coordinated by the FWF
FFG	Austrian Research Promotion Agency With all program lines managed by the FFG
ÖAW	Austrian Academy of Sciences
WWTF	Vienna Science and Technology Fund
ERC	European Research Council
EU	European Union
ACRP	Austrian Climate Research Program
OeNB	Anniversary Fund of the OeNB (Österreichische Nationalbank, the central bank of the Republic of Austria)
TWF	Tyrolean Science Promotion

Annex 2

Guide for selecting the Type of Project

(usual cases)

For all applicants

test A *Project* with limited resources for software testing

For members of partner universities (see operating regulations, Appendix 2)

If a funded project with peer review is available, e.g. from the FWF

funded

Otherwise

internal

Note: A *Small Project* is a *Project* of type internal with low resource requirements

In rare cases (please contact support@vsc.ac.at)

application
external scientific
external commercial
private

For members of other authorized institutions

(See Operating Regulations Appendix 2)

Note: Please select the correct *Parent Project*.

funded
internal

For other scientific customers (Please inquire via support@vsc.ac.at)

external scientific

For commercial customers (Please inquire via info@eurocc-austria.at)

external commercial

Personal data: Please select "Yes" only, if you intend to work within your *Project* with personal data. This increases the administrative overhead substantially.