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Seeking Bids for Helix Nebula Science Cloud

July 26, 2016 by [Rich Brueckner](#)

This week, the Helix Nebula Science Cloud ([HNSciCloud](#)) launched a €5.3 million tender for the establishment of a European hybrid cloud platform. The purpose of the platform is to support the deployment of high-performance computing and big-data capabilities for scientific research.



“The European Cloud Initiative will unlock the value of big data by providing world-class supercomputing capability, high-speed connectivity and leading-edge data and software services for science, industry and the public sector,” said Günther H. Oettinger, Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Societ

This pre-commercial procurement tender covers R&D services relevant to the design, development and pilot use of an innovative platform to support hybrid cloud environr. The HNSciCloud pre-commercial procurement project is funded by ten of Europe’s top research organizations and by the European Commission.

The new cloud platform must address the many challenges involved with providing a combination of services at the Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) level, integrated with an environment that supports the full life cycles of diverse scientific workflows. These inc

- Compute and Storage – support a range of virtual machines and container configurations to support researchers working with datasets in the petabyte rang
- Network Connectivity and Federated Identity Management – provide high-end ne capacity for the whole platform, with common identity and access management
- Service Payment Models – explore a range of purchasing options to determine th appropriate ones for the scientific application workloads to be deployed.

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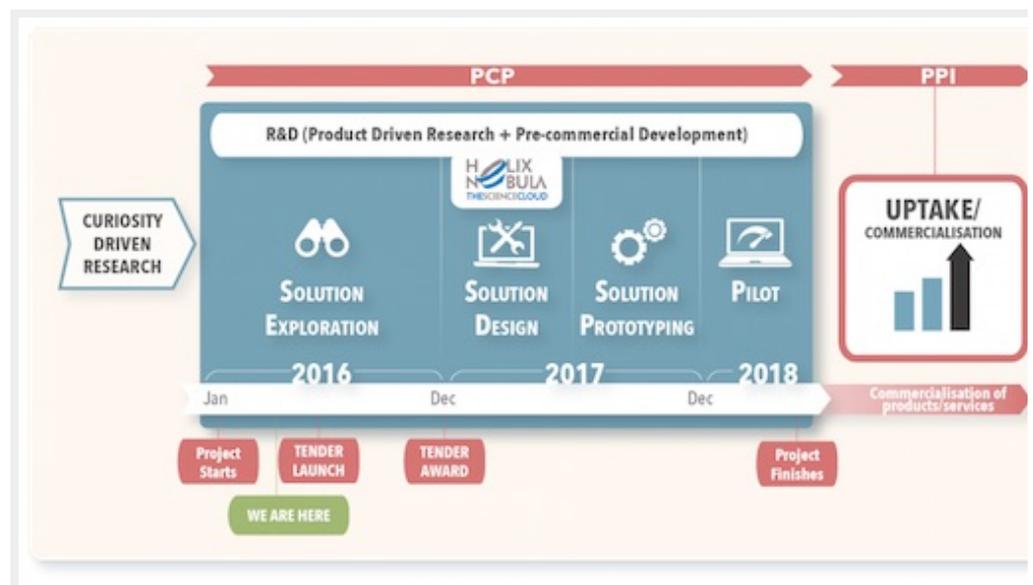
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The platform will serve scientists engineers working in high-energy physics, astronomy, the life sciences including biomedical research, and photon/neutron science in which ten procurers operate. These procurers will be the first customers of the platform, and will integrate their house resources with the procurer cloud services.

During the pilot phase, the hybrid platform will provide on-demand elastic services to geographically distributed users. This will include access to data produced by research organisations and hosted on the platform.

The platform must serve stakeholders beyond the initial procurers, reaching out to the private sector to offer innovative services that unlock the potential of research data. This will open up new possibilities for economic growth and contribute to the establishment of the European Cloud Initiative.



The deadline for the [submission of bids](#) is **Sept. 19, 2016**.

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