

BIOINFORMATICS INTEGRATION SUPPORT CONTRACT (BISC)

Description of Project

- The goal of the Bioinformatics Integration Support Contract (BISC) is to advance the discovery and testing of new therapies for immune-mediated diseases and to further our understanding of the basis of innate and adaptive immunity by providing advanced computer support for scientific data handling and disseminating best practices in scientific data analysis. The BISC will provide the means for scientists to easily access, generate, analyze, and exchange complex high-quality data sets. Specifically, BISC will develop a data repository, a suite of bioinformatics analysis tools, a suite of data integration tools, consulting advice on technical and data management issues and an archive facility. It is anticipated that these tools will be made available to the broader scientific community.
- In Fiscal Year (FY) 2002, two contracts were awarded in Phase I, or pilot phase, of the project.
- Phase II of the project will involve implementation and operation of the system developed and evaluated in Phase I and will be a limited competition between the two contractors carrying out Phase I.
- Phase II will be awarded in the summer of 2004.

Accomplishments

- Phase I contracts awarded in FY 2002 to Research Triangle Institute and Northrop Grumman.
- Phase I completed March 2004.
- Technical proposals for Phase II, systems requirements assessments, system designs and system implementation plans received by NIH in February 2004.

Future directions

- Phase II:
 - Development of the system designed in Phase I.
 - Continue interaction with scientific research community to develop a system that will meet their needs.
 - Work with larger research groups to add value to existing systems and infrastructure, not replicate it.
 - Develop of standards for data collection, storage and data exchange.
 - Create a comprehensive data warehouse combining both clinical and mechanistic data.

Participants

Sponsor: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Participating Institutions

Research Triangle Institute
Northrop Grumman