ASCR Response to the Report of the ASCAC Committee of Visitors Review of the Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing (SciDAC-3) Program

Date of COV: October 6-7, 2014
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Program Point of Contact: Steven Lee

COV Recommendation	SciDAC-3 Program Response
Efficacy and quality of the processes used to solicit, review, recommend, and document application and proposal actions	
Preserve decision documents, even for declined proposals, and provide summary feedback in the declination letter.	ASCR agrees with this recommendation. The Portfolio Analysis and Management System (PAMS) has been developed and employed to support and document the complete research funding process for Office of Science research programs, including SciDAC. Decision documents for declined proposals are in PAMS.
Coordination between science programs and ASCR priorities in timing decisions pertaining to future proposals should be maintained.	ASCR agrees with this recommendation. Close coordination and communication among SciDAC Program Managers has been essential in managing this complex program and will be maintained.
It is important that the Program Managers can impose the SciDAC priority filter over and above the peer reviewers, who (properly within their sphere) rank based on the traditional merits of quality and originality.	ASCR agrees with this recommendation. The overall quality of the SciDAC program relies on the careful management of the solicitation, review, and selection process relative to each science discipline.
Within the boundaries defined by DOE missions and available funding, comment on how the award process has affected the breadth and depth of portfolio elements	
Maintain or create an appropriately balanced emphasis on science-based algorithms and insights, mathematical/computational algorithms, and high-performance computing.	ASCR agrees with this recommendation. The SciDAC program will continue to balance its portfolio of high-performance algorithms and software to address the strategic research priorities of the Office of Science.
ASCR should pursue synergisms between SciDAC and Co-Design.	ASCR agrees with this recommendation. Scalability and architecture-awareness are primary characteristics of SciDAC-3 software and science applications. Efforts to prepare SciDAC for future architectures will continue to benefit from leveraging results from ASCR research projects.

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In terms of demonstrating success for SciDAC collaborations, wide adoption in the field of codes developed by the Institutes should be regarded as at least as meritorious as shared post-doctoral funding (FTEs), in that it shows that the algorithmic and software technology has reached maturity.	ASCR agrees with this recommendation. The wide adoption of codes produced by SciDAC projects continues to be one of our success stories.
Within the boundaries defined by DOE missions and available funding, comment on how the award process has affected the degree to which the program is anticipating and addressing emerging challenges from high performance computing and DOE missions	
The Committee strongly encourages the Institutes to expand outreach efforts in the out years of SciDAC-3 to reach a larger scientific community.	ASCR agrees with this recommendation. The SciDAC Institutes are actively involved in expanding their outreach to the wider computational science community through annual summer schools, extensive tutorials, and new, research project collaborations.
Be attentive that balance between ASCR Leadership Computing Challenge (ALCC) and INCITE computing resources is tuned in light of SciDAC requirements.	ASCR agrees with this recommendation. Sufficient access to advanced scientific computing resources is essential to the success of the SciDAC program and ASCR can address this risk when considering its computing resource allocation policies in FY16.