
Membership Rules for the Helix Nebula Initiative

Version 2.2, February 2015

I Introduction

1. Over the next years the Helix Nebula Initiative is expected to be supported by a strong community of members from organisations making use or having the intent to use cloud computing services and cloud service providers.
2. Members can join one or more of the following categories below:
 - a) Users:

An entity that applies to become a User Member shall have an intent to procure cloud computing services and actively participate in the Initiative e.g., through participation in task forces and provide use cases for cloud computing that support the work of the Initiative. Users will name a representative to participate in regular meetings of the Helix Nebula Users Board.
 - b) Service Providers:

An entity that applies to become a Service Provider Member shall commit to support a set of cloud computing services as described in Attachment A and actively participate in the Initiative e.g., through participation in task forces. Service Providers will name a representative to participate in regular meetings of the Helix Nebula Service Providers Board.
 - c) Interested Parties:

An entity may apply to become an Interested Party, if it initially do not want to be actively involved in the Initiative but wishes to make use of a product provided by a Helix Nebula Member or be kept informed of the work of or use information provided by the Initiative.
3. For User and Service Provider Members a formal acceptance procedure will apply (specified hereafter), to be submitted to the approval of the General Assembly of the Helix Nebula Initiative following the receipt of the membership request. Membership application implies acceptance of the vision, concept and direction of the Helix Nebula Initiative defined in the strategic plan¹ as well as a willingness to collaborate with the other Members in order to achieve the vision, concept and direction. The final decision on acceptance of a new Member will be taken by the

¹ Strategic Plan for a Scientific Cloud Computing infrastructure for Europe, CERN-OPEN-2011-036, August 2011, <http://cdsweb.cern.ch/record/1374172>

General Assembly of the Helix Nebula Initiative. If a Member objects the acceptance of a new Member, the Chair of the Helix Nebula Initiative will seek a solution by consensus of both the User and Service Provider Members. In case of lack of consensus, decision will be taken by a qualified majority of all Members. Membership shall not be unreasonably withheld if the acceptance criteria are fulfilled.

4. All entities applying to become a Member of the Helix Nebula Initiative (except as an Interested Party) must sign a multi-lateral NDA.
5. The Chair of the Users Board and the Chair of Service Providers Board will be elected by a qualified majority of their respective Members for a period of 6 months. A Chair can be renewed for up to 3 successive mandates. The Chair of the Users Board will also be the Chair of the Helix Nebula Initiative.

II European character of a potential service provider member

6. In view of the purpose of the Helix Nebula Initiative, to promote European cloud computing innovation and services in Europe, a potential Service Provider Member has to qualify as “European”.
7. As “European” in the sense of the Helix Nebula Membership Rules shall be considered those organisations who fulfil the following criteria:
 - (a) any legal entity established² in an EU Member State; and that is
 - (b) eligible to participate in and receive funding through the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation - Horizon 2020³.
8. Service Providers shall comply with the relevant European or Member States rules and regulations including those for data protection, security and intellectual property rights.
9. In the case of a request for membership from an entity established in a country outside the EU, such membership can be obtained only if the participation of the requesting entity is considered as essential for supporting the Helix Nebula vision, concept and direction of the Strategic Plan.

² An entity is to be considered as established in one of the MSs where the following conditions are met: 1. The entity is incorporated in one of the MSs; and 2. The controlling shareholder(s) including the ultimate controlling shareholder are incorporated in one of the MSs;

³ Rules for participation in Horizon 2020 are outlined by the European Commission in: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal_basis/rules_participation/h2020-rules-participation_en.pdf]

10. In case the criteria mentioned under para. 7. and/or 8. are met and the Service Provider can be considered “European” in accordance with the Membership Rules, but a conflict with the provisions of para. 4 exist, the General Assembly shall decide on this issue unanimously.
11. As a matter of principle, membership is open for all entities qualified as “European” in the sense of Chapter II above.

Attachment A: Cloud Computing Services to be supported Helix Nebula Service Provider Members

Service providers applying for membership status in the Helix Nebula Initiative shall support a set of cloud computing services with innovative aspects in terms of functionality, performance, scope, or impact of the European Cloud Computing infrastructure.

The cloud computing service must be open and transparent to be used in combination with other service provider services to encourage a broad acceptance amongst users. Important characteristics of the services may include the need for a significant scale of resources, federation/aggregation of data sets, long-term archiving of data and on-demand processing. The federation of the providers services with other cloud computing services are of great importance.

Service providers must be prepared to share information about their cloud deployments, their business objectives, technical features and performance so that the services can be assessed, improved and promoted to a wider audience.

Service providers must be prepared to contribute their own resources for the work in the Initiative.