Global Lambda Integrated Facility
Sponsorship Structure
Approved on 12 October 2012 by the Governance Working Group

The Global Lambda Integrated Facility (GLIF) has its origins in the annual Global LambdaGrid Workshops that started in 2001. At the 3rd Annual Global LambdaGrid Workshop in Reykjavik (2003), the GLIF name was formally adopted, whilst at the 4th Annual Global LambdaGrid Workshop in Nottingham (2004), it was agreed to establish a Secretariat paid from sponsorship from participating organisations. The Trans-European Research and Education Networking Association (TERENA) has run the GLIF Secretariat since 1 January 2005, and reports to the GLIF Governance Working Group that meets at every Global LambdaGrid Workshop.

The main tasks undertaken by the GLIF Secretariat are:

- Organising the Global LambdaGrid Workshops together with the local hosts.
- Organising the interim meetings of the GLIF Technical Working Group.
- Administratively supporting the GLIF Working Groups.
- Hosting, maintaining and updating the GLIF website (http://www.glif.is/).
- Hosting and administering the GLIF mailing lists.
- Producing publicity material as well as publishing news items as necessary.
- Contracting and supervising production of the GLIF map.
- Promoting and presenting GLIF at other conferences, workshops and fora.

The running costs are met from voluntary sponsorships paid by organisations participating in GLIF. Voluntary financial contributions to GLIF have been sufficient over the years. However, sponsors have indicated that it would be easier to justify GLIF sponsorship if a more structured way of defining a fair GLIF contribution would be available. As a response to this, the following funding model was discussed and approved at the Global LambdaGrid Workshop in Chicago in 2012.

GLIF Funding Model

Sponsors can be categorised as GOLE operators, lightpath providers, and lightpath users; although there are overlaps among these categories. Historical contributions suggest that GOLE operators find the most value in GLIF to varying degrees. Therefore GLIF has defined sponsorship tiers around these categories and defined these tiers as follows:

Tier	Category	Description	Units
1	Key GOLE Operator	Organisation providing a GOLE critical to connecting global communities. Typically has links to other continents	6
2	GOLE Lightpath Operator	Organisation providing lightpath services to a country, territory or region. Typically operates a GOLE with multiple international links.	4
3	Lightpath Operator	Organisation providing lightpath services to a region within a country or territory. May or may not operate a lightpath exchange.	2
4	Lightpath User	University, research institute or other organizations utilizing lightpath services	1

Categories are intended to be self-selecting, and organisations can choose the category they feel is most appropriate to their circumstances. The number of 'units' listed above for each category is used to calculate the suggested contributions. The GLIF budget, as agreed to each year by the GLIF Governance Working Group, is divided by the total number of units listed against all the contributors in order to produce a unit value. This is then multiplied in accordance with the table above to derive the *suggested* contribution for each sponsor. If the number of sponsoring organisations changes, the unit contribution would be adjusted as appropriate.

Sponsorship for 2013

At the Governance meeting in Chicago, a budget for the GLIF Secretariat of 73,300 euros was approved and the unit price for 2013 was set at 1,000 euros. It was anticipated that this would generate a small surplus to supplement the reserves. It is expected that a growing number of GLIF participants operating GOLEs and offering lightpath services will become sponsors too, again contributing towards a more healthy level of reserves. Some GOLEs are not operated by a single organisation and it was agreed that, in such cases, the contribution can be collected from the various partners of such GOLEs and that the GLIF Secretariat will be able to send separate invoices to these partners if so requested.

The resulting contribution for 2013 for the different tiers is shown in the table below:

Tier	Category	Units	Suggested Contribution 2013
1	Key GOLE Operator	6	6,000 euros
2	GOLE Lightpath Operator	4	4,000 euros
3	Lightpath Operator	2	2,000 euros
4	Lightpath User	1	1,000 euros

24 October 2012