




CURES

Users Committee of the RES

16th RES Users Meeting
September, 15th 2022, Cáceres



Scheme on the presentation of the Users Committee of the Spanish Supercomputing Network (CURES)

How did the CURES come about?

What are their goals?

Who are we?

What activities have we carried out in the last year?

How can I contact the CURES?

CURES: Fundación y Objetivos



The Users Committee of the RES (CURES) was founded in feb. 2010 to:

- Provide the RES users with a body that warrants their representation due to the relevance of this national research facility.
- Give advice and feedback to the managers of the RES. Help them understand the users point of view.

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- Give advice and feedback to the managers of the RES. Help them understand the users point of view.
- Promote the effective and efficient use of RES supercomputing resources by:
 - Sharing information and exchange previous experience among users on the use of the RES.
 - Suggesting new directions, both in terms of research and future technologies.
 - Providing a channel for possible concerns, comments and suggestions about its operation in order to improve its resources and services

CURES: Rules

The CURES established its operating standards in 2010.



It is a flexible body, to which no rules are imposed, and which evolves according to needs.

The latest regulation dates from 2015, and it prescribes how the president and vice president of CURES will maintain their position for one year. The vice president will replace the president.

Find the rules
@ the RES
intranet:

The screenshot displays the RES Intranet Area. At the top, there are logos for BSC (Barcelona Supercomputing Center) and RES (Red Española de Supercomputación). The main header reads 'RES - Red Española de Supercomputación Intranet Area'. Below this, a navigation bar includes links for 'RES Users Committee', 'Projects Dissemination Information', 'External links', and a user profile for 'Miguel Ángel Aloy'. The 'RES Users Committee' link is highlighted with a red arrow. The main content area is titled 'RES Users Committee' and includes a sub-header 'Documents'. Below this, there is a list of documents. The first document, 'cures-rules-2.pdf', is highlighted with a red arrow. The second document is 'Minutes_of_the_2015_CURES_meeting-1.pdf'.

CURES: Election & duration of the membership

The first Committee was made up of experienced users of the RES

- ☒ Proposal of candidates by the outgoing CURES team.
- ☒ Expert candidates in different areas and geographically distributed.
- ☒ The duration of the CURES membership is 2 years.
- ☒ Yearly renovation of 50% of the members.

CURES: Current members

One or two researchers per thematic area of the RES.
All must be researchers and RES users



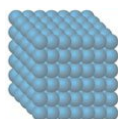
Physics

María José Caturla (Universitat d'Alacant)
Javier Junquera (Universidad de Cantabria)



Engineering and Mathematics

Francisco Javier Salvador (Universitat Politècnica de València)



Solid State Chemistry

Mercedes Boronat (Intituto de Tecnología Química UPV-CSIC)
José Javier Plata (Universidad de Sevilla)



Chemistry of Biological Systems

Concepción González Bello (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela)



Biomedicine & Life Sciences

Jean Didier Marechal (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)



Astronomy, Space & Earth Sciences

Miguel Ángel Aloy (Universitat de València) – CURES Chair
Elena Khomenko (Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias)

CURES: Nueva composición (futuro próximo)

Todos investigadores y usuarios de los recursos de la RES

Área de Física



María José Caturla (Universidad de Alicante)

Área de Matemáticas e Ingeniería

Raul Payri (Universitat Politècnica de València)



Área de Química de Sólidos

José Javier Plata (Universidad de Sevilla)

Mercedes Boronat (Instituto de Tecnología Química, Valencia)



Área de Biomedicina y Ciencias de la Vida

Antoni Planas (Universitat Ramon Llull)

Química de sistemas biológicos

Concepción González-Bello (Universidade de Santiago)



Área de Astronomía, Espacio y Ciencias de la Tierra

Miguel Ángel Aloy (Universitat de València)

Elena Khomenko (Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias)

CURES: satisfaction surveys



RES & CURES conduct a survey every 2 years to users.

Survey results (available on the web) between 2012 and 2020:



Year	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
Participation	12%	14%	21%	16%	18%
Satisfaction	50%	55%	69%	72%	92%
Contact with CURES			9%	8%	11%
Unawareness of CURES	26%	13%	30%	24%	12%

Proposals for improvement that affect more than three users:

- Improvements for the resource request application (e.g. automatic filling, inclusion of figures, PDFs do not allow cut-&-paste, etc.).
- Revision process (rating and scores of the evaluated proposals, more feedback from referees, technical report also when the project is not accepted, ways to improve the application, etc.).
- Extension of the length of the periods.

CURES: Contact and query

After login with the user credentials at www.bsc.es/res



**Barcelona
Supercomputing
Center**
Centro Nacional de Supercomputación



RED ESPAÑOLA DE
SUPERCOMPUTACIÓN

RES - Red Española de Supercomputación
Intranet Area

RES Users Committee

Projects Dissemination Information

External links ▼

Javier Junquera ▼

Home

NEWS: Keep informed about the latest news and updates from the RES at the new [RES website](#)

Applications and activities

Below you have a list of your available applications and activities.

CURES: Documents



RES - Red Española de Supercomputación
Intranet Area

[RES Users Committee](#) [Projects Dissemination Information](#) [External links](#) ▼ [Javier Junquera](#) ▼

[Home](#) > [RES Users Committee](#)

RES Users Committee

[Documents](#) [Mailbox](#) [CURES Mailbox](#) [Contact CURES](#)

Information and available documents related to CURES (RES Users Committee).
Please, find below the documents that CURES has published and that are of interest to all the RES Users.

Documents



CURES_rules.pdf



Minutes_of_the_establishment_CURES_meeting.pdf



Minutes_of_the_2015_CURES_meeting-1.pdf



Minutes_of_the_2015_CURES_meeting-2.pdf



CURES_presentation_in_the_III_RES_Users_Meeting.pdf

CURES: Contact

RES Users Committee Projects Dissemination Information External links ▼ Javier Junquera

Home > RES Users Committee

RES Users Committee

[Documents](#) [Mailbox](#) [CURES Mailbox](#) [Contact CURES](#)

Please, select some information and write your message in English or Spanish, then you will be able to send it to CURES. You will receive in your e-mail address a notification of your sending as well as a warning when it has been moderated and replied by the CURES.

Contact CURES

Which area of expertise would you like to contact?

Select Area

Topic of the message:

Select Topic

Message content

Enter your message here ...

 Send

This method of direct contact allows our personalized responses that the CURES provides after having discussed and, if necessary, met.

CURES: Mailbox



RES - Red Española de Supercomputación
Intranet Area

RES Users Committee Projects Dissemination Information External links ▼ Javier Junquera ▼

Home > RES Users Committee

RES Users Committee

Documents Mailbox CURES Mailbox Contact CURES

Previous messages sent by you to the CURES and answers received.
Find below the summary of the messages you sent to the CURES and the answers you received. Just have to select a message and click on it to obtain the details of the communication.
Currently you do not have messages regarding communications to or from CURES.

Contacts during 2022

CURES Mailbox

Date	From	Id	Area	Topic	Replied	Solved	Actions
2022-07-31 11:02:45		263	AECT	FeedBack about the assigned facility	Yes	Yes	Show
2022-05-16 11:48:18		260	ALL	General Question	Yes	Yes	Show
2022-03-01 12:36:40		257	ALL	How to Access to the RES resources	Yes	Yes	Show

CURES: Example

I am aware that the deadline is really close, so the answer below corresponds to my personal view point. In any case, I will contact the other CURES member in charge of the Physics panel and urge him to check if he agrees. Please, do not hesitate in contact us again in case you find our answer unsatisfactory.

From your message, I deduce that you have been awarded with some computer time in the last application period.

From the CURES we cannot guarantee that your renewal application will be also successful. This depends only on the access committee. But we can provide some guidelines in order to write the proposal as strong as possible.

- You should explain (in a short but broad-audience way) why [REDACTED] is important. Think that scientific excellence is the most important criteria (if not the only) for acceptance and it is very likely that you will have to compete for computer time with other projects related to health, climate change, energy harvesting, etc. Those problems are very appealing and important, not only from the scientific point of view but from the return to society and tax payers who are supporting us. So why do you think that your problem should deserve for the amount of kilo-hours you will ask for.
- You are writing a continuation project, so you should clearly explain the level of success in the following of the original flowchart. Are there significant deviations?. In such a case, why?.
- Of course, you should mention the publications published (or under referee process) that are the outcome of the simulations performed during the first project, as well as any talks in conferences or workshops, seminars, etc.
Do not forget to upload relevant figures, etc in the web page of the proposal.
- Specify clearly why you need supercomputer resources, and in particular, why you need to carry out the simulations in MareNostrum 4. Since you have some experience accumulated during the first application period, then you can estimate accurately the amount of computer power (number of simulations, number of core required in each run, typical time length of each simulation, etc.) and memory required in your different computations.
Write as accurately as possible the flowchart of the simulations: which ones will be performed in the first place and why, if there is a pipeline so the outcomes of some previous simulations are required to start new simulations as a second stage or you can run many different calculations in parallel... You know much better than I your particular problem.
This helps in three different aspects: first, it is clear for the referees that you have thought about your computational experiments. Seconds, it will make easier the checks to determine if the goals have been achieved or not. Third, because the amounts of resources that you will ask for will be very accurate (see below).
- Indicate that you have your own human resources in your group to run and process the output of all the simulations you propose.

CURES: Example of a topic dealt (10/12/19)

Number of requests per year to the RES.

- Proposal arisen at the 13th RES Users Conference (*and cyclically demanded to the CURES*): *Reduce from 3 (4 months) to 2 (6 months) the yearly calls.*
 - Potential benefits:
 - More time for proposal evaluation and reply to referees.
 - Smaller temporal/professional cost in the proposal preparation.
- *Decision of CURES:*
 - The RES provides time to undertake “activities” rather than “projects”.
 - If a proposal is not accepted, it can be resubmitted again in 4 months, instead of in 6.
 - Rises the pressure on the referees.
 - Would approach us the PRACE scheme, but PRACE offers Tier 0 resources, while the RES offers Tier 1.
 - Recommendations to RES:
 1. Remind users that in case of a clear and well-motivated objection by an applicant, avoid sending future proposals of the applicant to the same evaluators (something that is already done now).
 2. In case of discrepancy between 2 evaluators, the coordinator seeks an opinion among the evaluators of the area.
 3. Conduct a survey among users on the subject.

CURES: Example of a topic dealt (26/10/21)

Including feedback on the relative position of the submitted proposals.

- Proposal arisen from the Users Satisfaction Survey 2019-2020 and supported by the CURES in their yearly report.
- Technical RES team provides a draft on how the mechanism can be implemented.
- CURES discusses the draft and makes proposals for improving the clarity of the ranking scheme.
- As a result, we have now a relative ranking proposal that informs users about their result.
- Basically, the proposals are split into 4 groups:
 - **Top Group:** proposal ranked in the **(TOP 15%)** group of this call and has been fully allocated. Any allocation reduction may be due to low usage of resources in the preceding activity.
 - **Intermediate Group:** proposal ranked in the **(TOP 15%-30%)** group of this call, where reductions may be applied due to limitation of resources.
 - **Low Group:** proposal ranked in the **(TOP 30-80%)** group of this call, where resources are not secured due to the oversubscription of the call.
 - **Bottom Group:** proposal ranked in the lowest priority group **(bottom 20%)** of this call, where available resources have been completely exhausted.

CURES: ¿Qué trataremos en la próxima reunion? (Octubre 2020)

1. Nueva división en 6 áreas en lugar de las 4 previas.
 - La discusión surge como resultado de la queja de un usuario:

First of all, I was unhappily surprised already last year when the areas of the RES calls were changed. The splitting up of "*Mathematics, Physics and Engineering*" into "*Physics*" and "*Engineering and Mathematics*" is understandable, but the separation of "*Chemistry and Materials Science and Technology*" into "*Solid State Chemistry*" and "*Chemistry of Biological Systems*" is a grave mistake, which needs to be **corrected immediately**. One cannot leave out Chemistry all together just like that, and focus only on two sub-disciplines. Given that the other areas are really disciplines, the six areas should be:

1. Astronomy, Space and Earth Sciences
2. Life and Health Sciences
3. Physics
4. Engineering and Mathematics
5. Materials Science
6. Chemistry

Anything other than that is incoherent, and subject to arbitrariness, leading to non-objective decision making in the evaluations. Indeed, the review procedures have been negatively affected by it (see point 3).

I strongly urge you to make this change immediately.

CURES: Information about us

The resource request form informs about the existence of the CURES.

7.- Contact with CURES (the RES User's Committee)

? [Information About CURES](#)

- a. Have you contacted the CURES during the last year? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- b. Was the answer satisfactory and useful? ☒ Yes ☐ No

SAVE APPLICATION

?

SUBMIT APPLICATION

?

Thanks for your attention



Contact us at

<http://www.bsc.es/res> or <http://www.res.es>