

SAB Feedback from May 2020 - Overview

■ SAB April/May 2020:

- Meeting SAB End April 2020 (constitutive meeting)
- Report until end May 2020
- Feedback from several experts with specific perspectives
- Plus collection and overall summary (Thanks to C.Kirkpatrick!)

■ SAB April/May 2020:

- Positioning of HIFIS as a platform, not a project
- Integration with other platforms
- Integration into the proposal process
- Collaboration with international initiatives

➤ <https://hifis.net/news/2020/05/27/sab-summary>

➤ <https://nubes.helmholtz-berlin.de/s/tDzdXStcgB8DxJK?path=%2F&openfile=84005457#pdfviewer>

HELMHOLTZ ENTWICKELUNG FÜR
GRÖßERE HERAUSFORDERUNGEN

Helmholtz Federated IT Services (HIFIS)

Feedback on HIFIS

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of the newly established platform "Helmholtz Federated IT Services" (HIFIS) held its constitutive meeting as a virtual conference on April 29, 2020. The HIFIS annual platform report 2019 and platform proposal were provided beforehand, as well as presentation slides and materials on the cloud service selection after the meeting.¹

During the meeting, Helmholtz representatives and HIFIS members held presentations providing insight on ambitions and actual progress of HIFIS in the context of Helmholtz and the European research landscape. These presentations interchanged with open discussion sessions of all participants. Minutes of the discussion have been provided to the SAB members a few days after the meeting.

The SAB members were given additional opportunity to provide written feedback within approx. one week after the meeting, allowing to assemble this collective feedback report. There were many positive comments and reactions in regard to HIFIS and its progress. Specific points to highlight:

- **Positioning of HIFIS as a platform, not a project.** The presentations were refreshing in that they were from a scientific user's perspective and not overly focused on technical specifications. HIFIS has a flexible architecture that anticipates specific systems being integrated and also decommissioned or replaced. The emphasis is on building a sustainable resource that works well for researchers. This perspective and positioning should continue, although some experts would enjoy additional specifications for review.
- **Integration with other platforms.** HIFIS's utility grows exponentially as it is integrated with other scientific platforms. This work is necessary, needed, and should be prioritized.
- **Integration into the proposal process.** Related to the point above, it is recommended that HIFIS will be given improved visibility and insight in the proposal process of Helmholtz platform projects they hope to integrate with. The benefits of coordination and early knowledge can reap numerous benefits. For example, even without requiring new work, the HIFIS team could factor in the technology and data choices of funded projects on the AI and Imaging platforms, so HIFIS is better aligned to serve or integrate in later.
- **Collaboration with international initiatives.** Both HIFIS as a groundbreaking platform and the Helmholtz Association have much to share with the international scientific community. As well, by connecting with international initiatives, especially European ones, HIFIS may find other work to build upon, that will increase capacity for additional work.

Specific feedback given by six experts from the SAB are given in full detail in the following sections.

- **Address "IT knowledge gap"**
 - Survey, frequent contact with non IT platforms (-> Gitlab for project management)
 - Consulting Services, Helpdesk
 - Improved exploitation of Synergy between all clusters
- **KPI shall reflect "quality of infrastructure"**
 - KPI reformulated: Focus on user acceptance
 - Post survey in Education & Training and Consulting
 - Cloud service specific KPI being developed and implemented (Demos for selected services, incl AAI)

- **Place consulting service for researchers**
 - HIFIS Consulting, HIFIS Helpdesk, multiple cross-platform channels
- **Provide best practices on how to use infrastructure**
 - Education, Consulting, Survey, Guidelines
 - Tutorials on Toolboxes and Frameworks (S/MIME, Docker, Kroki, ...)
- **Definition of (multidisciplinary) key pilots, demonstrating added value**
 - Showcase Helmholtz AI projects, HIP, HMC, HZI use cases and their use
- **Presentation of overall benefit of services, service orchestration**
 - Demo
 - Milestone for Metaservice(s)

- **Business Model; support by sound governance**
 - Selection criteria supervision by Fedboard, AAI policies, contracts WIP
 - Common Licence purchase for federated services + "Mitwirkungspflichten"
 - open: further work to be done in Helmholtz context, not much in our control
 - Evaluation of all platforms will come into play
- **Define high-level strategic objectives**
 - in line with Helmholtz-level digitalization strategy

- **Transparency, especially on service selection**
 - HIFIS follows Open Source and Open Access
 - All relevant repositories have been made public
 - hifis.net/doc
- **Less overview/intro; more focus on actual progress**
 - We hope we did!!
- **Breakout Rooms, focused discussion**
 - Provided before, during and after the meeting