

Dear Colleagues

If you are submitting an ARC Discovery Project Grant in the next round, please see the information below on using GAMS:

GAMS PERFORMANCE - DP 2008

Now that the DP 2008 application form is available on GAMS, we would like to remind you about the issues with GAMS performance during the upcoming peak processing period (mid January - Early March) and the best times to use GAMS to avoid or minimise processing delays.

While we have made every effort to improve GAMS performance, we are limited by the capabilities of the legacy software. The solutions we have implemented have only resulted in minor performance improvements. The ARC's new Research Management System (RMS) is currently in development and is expected to address the performance issues in the existing system. (See page 4 of the Spring 2006 issue of the Discovery Newsletter for more information on RMS)

As a result of the GAMS performance issues, users **can expect the system to run slowly and have poor response times (especially in February), and users may not be able to connect to the system at times.** We recognise that this can be frustrating, especially when trying to save, validate or submit a proposal.

We offer the following suggestions for GAMS use during the upcoming peak processing period, and ask that research offices to pass this information onto all their applicants:

- **Applicants should make every effort to complete as much of the on-line proposal form as possible between early December and mid January. In particular, requests for new GAMS accounts should be identified and requested as early as possible.**
- **User load in GAMS is at its lowest in the early morning and outside of standard business hours (for the Australian time zones), and particularly on weekends.**
- **Applicants should try to submit the proposals to their research office well in advance of their organisation's internal closing date. Most research offices set their internal closing dates during the first 2 weeks of February and during this period it could take up to several hours to validate/submit a proposal.**
- **If when logging on a message appears indicating 'the System is heavily loaded' please do not make repeated attempts to log-on. Wait at least 15 minutes before trying again. Continuous login attempts will only slow the system even more and will not provide you with any greater access to the system.**
- **If the system responses are extremely poor we may bring the system down with limited notice to perform remedial maintenance on GAMS. However, the performance gains from this action will be noticeable only for the first few hours.**

The ARC is aware of compatibility issues between GAMS and various hardware and browser combinations. Please refer to the ARC website for details of GAMS compatibility.

http://www.arc.gov.au/gams_login/gams_minreq.htm

Other information relevant to all GAMS users has been placed onto the ARC Website at http://www.arc.gov.au/gams_login/default.htm

ARC staff would appreciate it if the information on these pages is consulted before sending a query to the ARC, especially during this upcoming busy period.

Regards

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