

CASS Charter

Version 1, approved 2024-07-29

Name

The name of the organization is the Consortium for the Advancement of Scientific Software (CASS) (the Consortium).

Mission

Stewardship and advancement of the current and future ecosystem of scientific computing software.

Principles

- **Transparency:** open governance policies and open access to Consortium artifacts.
- **Inclusion:** cultivation of inclusive participation and equitable representation.
- **Sustainability:** long-term viability and growth of software, practices, and workforce.
- **Innovation:** responsiveness to stakeholder needs and technological evolution.
- **Cooperation:** working together to support the overall Consortium mission.
- **Integrity:** acting as a fair, trusted, and respected asset to the community.

Organizational Model

The Consortium is a federation of member organizations committed to actively pursuing the stated Mission and Goals in a collaborative fashion, following the stated Principles. Member organizations exist to support specific communities or to provide crosscutting capabilities related to scientific software stewardship. Member organizations may be categorized as core members, who take an active role in consortium governance, or affiliate members, who are in solidarity with the mission of the consortium but do not take an active role in consortium governance. Member organizations coordinate and cooperate as a Consortium to maximize benefit to the ecosystem as a whole.

Goals and Scope

In support of the mission and principles, in conjunction with its member organizations, the Consortium will:

- Facilitate the stewardship and advancement of a capable, high-quality, interoperable software ecosystem for scientific computing
 - By enabling better collaboration across all activities of the member organizations
- Build and retain an inclusive and capable workforce equipped to carry out and lead scientific software stewardship and advancement activities –
 - By fostering a supportive and inclusive culture and applying best practices to broaden impact and participation.
- Engage a wide base of stakeholders –

By promoting the scientific software ecosystem, undertaking outreach activities to educate and engage, lowering barriers to engagement, and pursuing opportunities to broaden the impact of the Consortium.

- Maintain open, two-way communication with stakeholders –
By speaking with a unified voice to stakeholders regarding status and direction, and disseminating feedback to the Consortium.
- Maximize the impact of Consortium resources and capabilities for the benefit of the ecosystem at large –
By improving efficiency through combining and coordinating infrastructure, planning, and resources across the ecosystem.
- Maintain situational awareness and balanced coverage of the evolving needs of scientific computing –
By identifying gaps, incompatibilities, and other issues to be addressed in a coordinated fashion across the Consortium.
- Ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of the Consortium –
By exploring and executing plans for ensuring secure funding sources, including growth of the Consortium through the expansion of membership.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders in the Consortium include the following scientific software ecosystem participants: users, producers, computing facilities, funding organizations, vendors, industry, agencies, and institutional leaders. Participants are not restricted by national, commercial, or organizational boundaries.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Consortium-level governance consists of the entities defined below.

The **Steering Committee** is responsible for ensuring that the Consortium as a whole complies with the mission statement and charter. The Steering Committee includes representation from each constituent member organization.

The **External Advisory Board** is responsible for providing guidance to the Steering Committee from an objective external perspective. The External Advisory Board is composed of a diverse selection of stakeholders or other subject matter experts who are not themselves members of or directly supported by the Consortium.

Working Groups will be created as needed by the Steering Committee to carry out specific objectives of the Consortium. Working Groups may be composed of member organization participants or external parties. The objective, scope of activity, duration, and size of each Working Group will be clearly defined at its inception.

Member organizations define their own governance structure for topics that are outside the purview of the Consortium.