

Octopus - site report

ICAT F2F October 2016

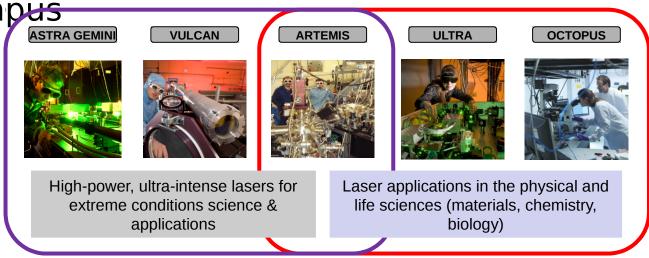
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OCTOPUS

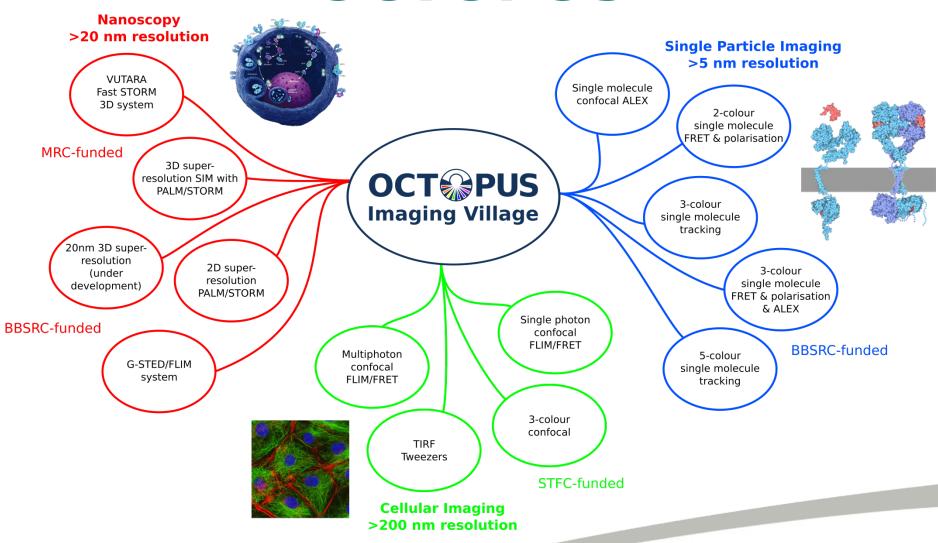
 Part of STFC Central Laser Facility at Harwell Campus



- National imaging facility with peer-reviewed, funded access
- Located in Research Complex at Harwell
- Cluster of microscopes and lasers and expert end-to-end multidisciplinary support

Science & Technology Facilities Council

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Octopus challenges

- Large and growing variety of imaging and analysis modalities and tools
- Changing variety and combinations of
 - studies, samples, instrumental and analysis techniques, platforms, licensing models, dataset types, computing architectures, algorithms
- Challenging image analysis often very manual
- User expertise (or lack of it) in numerical/computational work
- Motivation for the IJP



Deployment history 1

- Development system on Octopus hardware
 - Server running ICAT, IDS and IJP
 - Two worker nodes
 - Torque; puppet
- Production system being set up on SCD RIG VMs
 - Server running ICAT, IDS and TopCAT (with IJP GUI)
 - Separate server for IJP and batch connector
 - Hit problems with migration from Ubuntu to RedHat



Deployment History 2

- Octopus server suffered fatal hardware failure
- Created new development system from SCD resources
- Initial system used SCD Cloud VMs
 - ICAT / IDS / TopCat server
 - IJP server + Torque batch connector
 - Single worker node
- Worker node too underpowered
 - Added two larger VMs from a different pool
 - Later removed original worker



Current status

- Octopus using development system to develop and test ingest process and jobscripts
- Worker node performance is still an issue
- Production configuration still under discussion

