OCRE: the game changer of Cloud and EO commercial services usage by the European research community

José Manuel Delgado Blasco$^1$, Antonio Romeo$^1$, David Heyns$^2$, Natassa Antoniou$^3$, and Rob Carrillo$^4$

$^1$RHEA Group, Frascati, Italy (j.delgado@rheagroup.com; a.romeo@rheagroup.com)
$^2$GÉANT, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (david.heyns@geant.org)
$^3$EARSC, Brussels, Belgium (natassa.antoniou@earsc.org)
$^4$Trust-IT, Pisa, Italy (r.carrillo@trust-itservices.com)

The OCRE project, a H2020 funded by the European Commission, aims to increase the usage of Cloud and EO services by the European research community by putting available EC funds 9.5M euro, aiming to removing the barriers regarding the service discovery and providing services free-at-the-point-of-use.

The OCRE project, after one year running, has completed the requirements gathering by the European research community and during Q1 2020 has launched the tenders for the Cloud and EO services.

In the first part of 2020, these tenders will be closed and companies will be awarded to offer the services for which requirements had been collected by the project during 2019. The selection of such services will be based on the requirements gathered during the activities carried out by OCRE in 2019, with online surveys, face2face events, interviews among others. Additionally, OCRE team members had participated in workshops and conferences with the scope of project promotion and increase the awareness of the possibilities offered by OCRE for both research and service providers community.

In 2020, consumption of the services will start, and OCRE will distribute vouchers for individual researchers and institutions via known research organisations, which will evaluate the incoming request and distribute funds from the European Commission regularly.

This presentation will provide an overview on the possibilities offered by OCRE to researchers interested in boosting their activities using commercial cloud services.