EUROPEAN LANGUAGE GRID

European Language Grid: Towards a Legal Entity

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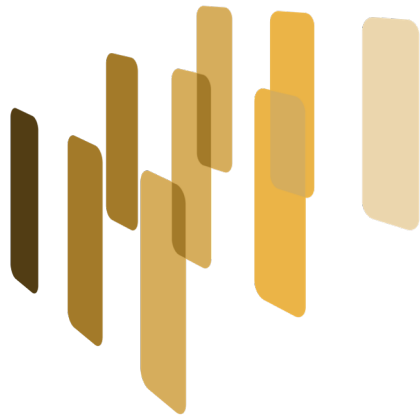
European Language Grid
Towards a Legal Entity
08/09-10-2019, Brussels – META-FORUM 2019 – Georg Rehm

- Introduction
- Potential Ingredients of the Sustainability Plan
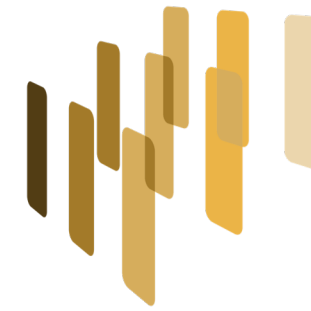- User Survey: Selected Insights
- Summary

ELG: Goals and Objectives

- Establish the ELG as the primary platform and market place for commercial and non-commercial LTs.

- Enable the European LT community to upload services and data sets into the ELG, to make them available, to deploy them and also to connect with, and make use of resources made available by others.

- Help establish the Multilingual Digital Single Market.

- To achieve the required scale, we need, among others: high availability and performance; SLAs for (paid) services that are applied in real industrial settings; billing; support etc.

- *These characteristics create various non-trivial costs.*

- *A sustainable and long-term operational model is required.*

Costs

- Cloud hosting (CPU, GPU, RAM, SSD) and bandwidth
- Team
  ◦ Operations
  ◦ Development
  ◦ Accounting
  ◦ Marketing
  ◦ Support (e.g., service helpdesk)
  ◦ Management
- Legal (SLAs, contracts, GDPR etc.)
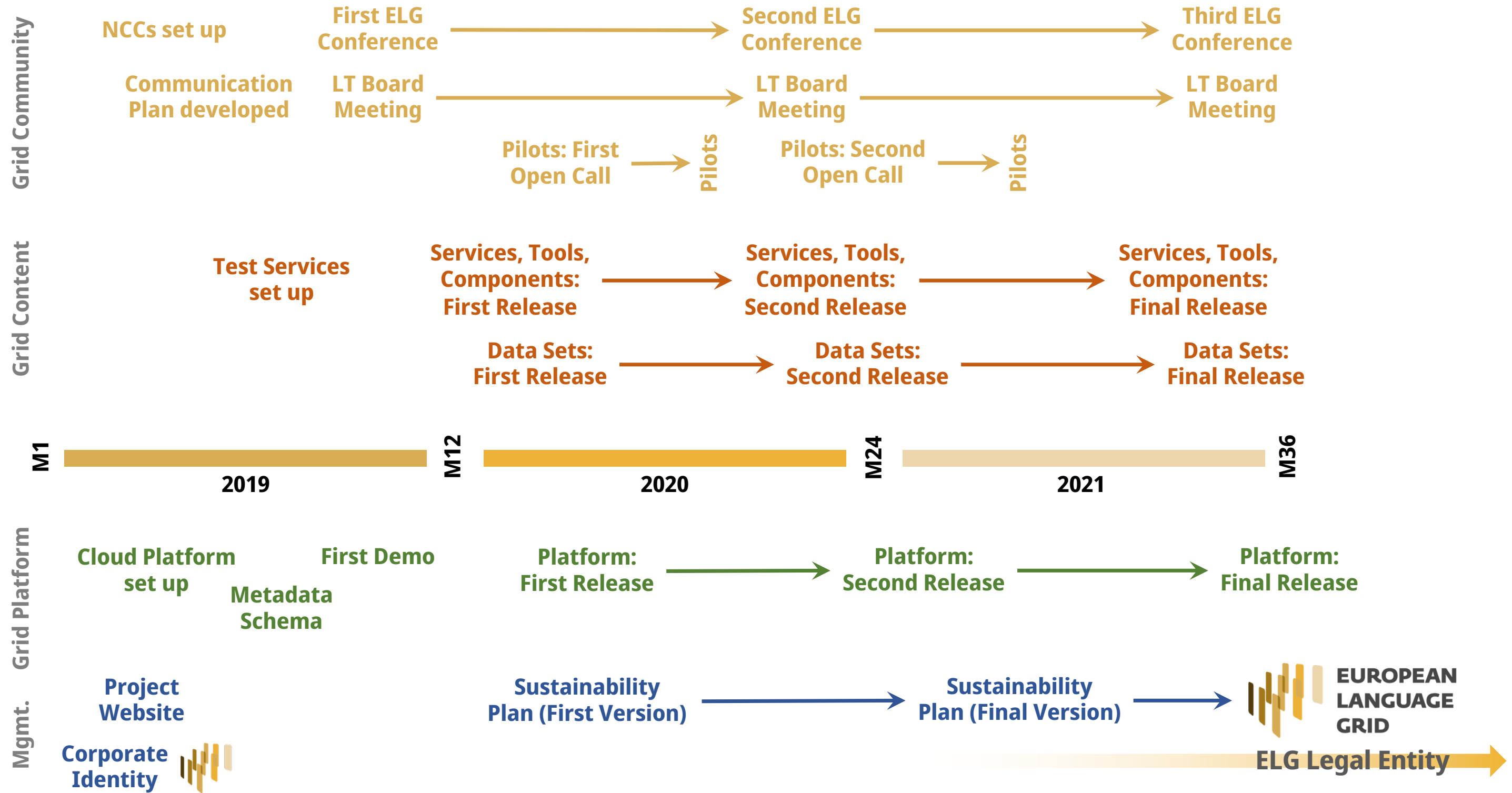- Misc. (rent, hardware, electricity etc.)

Towards a Sustainable European Language Grid

- Our goal for ELG is to be a sustainable, long-term activity.
- ELG is an initiative *from* the European LT community *for* the European LT community.
- For now, ELG is supported by the EU project ELG and, furthermore, by the German BMBF project QURATOR (first experiments towards workflow manager, linked data connector).

- To make ELG successful, we need to identify a way to cover the incurred costs on a long-term basis. We want to find a consensus for a *sustainable operational model*.
- One viable option: *establish a legal entity including business and operations plan*.

Grid Community

NCCs set up First ELG Conference → Second ELG Conference → Third ELG Conference

Communication Plan developed LT Board Meeting → LT Board Meeting → LT Board Meeting

Pilots: First Open Call → Pilots Pilots: Second Open Call → Pilots

Grid Content

Test Services set up Services, Tools, Components: First Release → Services, Tools, Components: Second Release → Services, Tools, Components: Final Release

Data Sets: First Release → Data Sets: Second Release → Data Sets: Final Release

M1 ── 2019 ── M12 ── 2020 ── M24 ── 2021 ── M36

Grid Platform

Cloud Platform set up First Demo Platform: First Release → Platform: Second Release → Platform: Final Release

Metadata Schema

Mgmt.

Project Website Sustainability Plan (First Version) → Sustainability Plan (Final Version) → EUROPEAN LANGUAGE GRID

Corporate Identity ELG Legal Entity →

Open Questions

- How can we make sure that companies benefit from participating in ELG?
  - In terms of *reach and visibility* (opening up new markets), faster *time to market, experimenting with new tools* more efficiently and also *financially*
- How can we make sure that researchers benefit from participating in ELG?
  - In terms of *reach and visibility, carrying out experiments* more efficiently, rapid *prototyping, dissemination and exploitation of industry-relevant project results* etc.

- What are potential ingredients of a future ELG business and operations plan?
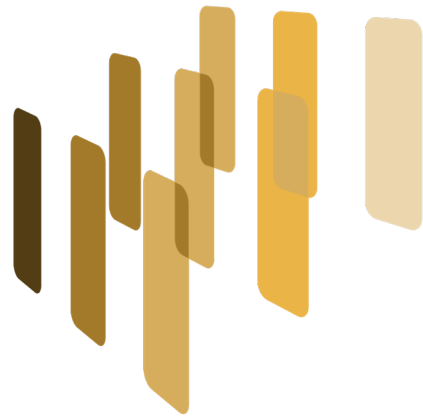
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# Potential Ingredients of the Sustainability Plan

Please note: none of this is set in stone!

Potential Ingredients of Sustainability Plan 1/2

- **Regular ads** (for companies, services, conferences etc.)
- **Sponsored content** (first result of search/catalogue, marked as "sponsored")
  - Sponsored services
  - Sponsored data sets
  - Sponsored companies
  - Other sponsored catalogue entries
- **Training events**, **tutorials**, **webinars** (for a fee for commercial players, free for academia)
- **Conferences** (event registration fees; sponsorship packages for companies)
- **General consulting services** around ELG and language-centric AI (esp. for companies)
- **Membership fees** (if we decide to establish an association or similar)
- **Project grants** (international as well as national projects)

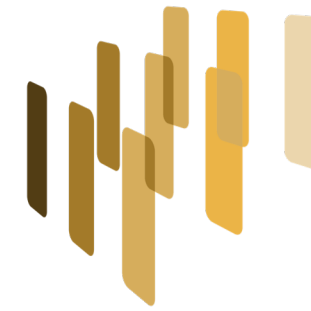# *Potential* Ingredients of Sustainability Plan 2/2
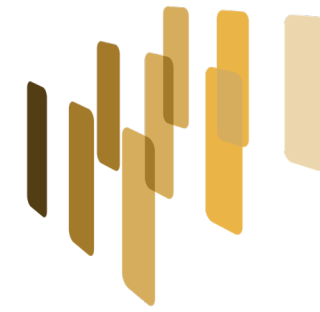
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- **LTaaS** – LT services: hosting of services, models, data sets (hosting of services or large models creates costs; publicly funded research results to be made available OA; difference between industry and research; costs need to be covered)
  - For companies that develop LT – as a primary or secondary dissemination channel, to extend their reach, to open up new markets etc.
  - Brokering of commercial LT services (for a fee, split between service owner and ELG)
  - For R&D project consortia – as an *additional* dissemination and exploitation channel for industry-relevant research results
- **PaaS** – LT platform functionality: combine ELG services into workflows
- **RaaS** – Hosting service for whole repositories
- **LT marketplace:** matchmaking fee for connecting a buyer with the right supplier

Legal Entity – Options

- Basic options:
  - a) for-profit company
  - b) non-profit company
  - c) professional stakeholder association
  - d) foundation
- Mixed financing model
  - See the previous two slides
  - There are probably also other potential ingredients

MLi Deliverable D4.3

- MLi – Towards a Multilingual Data & Services Infrastructure

- Runtime: November 2013 until April 2016

- Partners: Inmark, ATOS, ELDA, DCU, Tilde, ESTeam, USFD

- D4.3 LTI Cloud Business Model Report

- LTI Cloud was a concept similar to ELG but different in terms of scope (industry only; for a fee only; global)

- The report provides valuable food for thought for the ELG sustainability plan

- D4.3 business model approach: *simple* (ways for billing), *attractive* (price must be right), *transparent* (simple pricing model, be clear about costs), *single contract* (users only have to deal with a single contract)
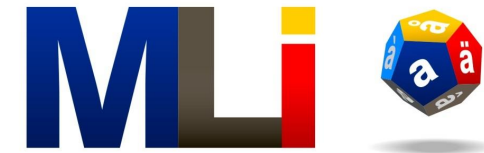
Towards a MultiLingual Data & Services Infrastructure

**Support Action**

Grant agreement no.: 610951

D4.3 LTI Cloud Business Model Report

MLi –WP4-D4.3

Project Number	FP7-ICT-610951
Due Date	31st of May 2015
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Document Author/s	Jochen Hummel, Michael Wetzel, Lambros Kranias, Gudrun Magnusdottir
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Document approved by	ESTeam

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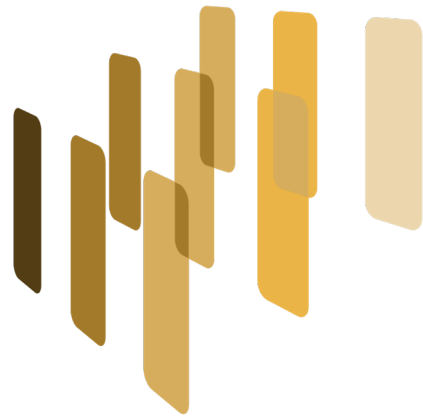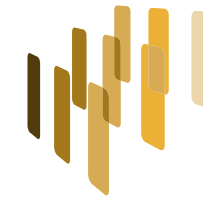
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User Survey: Selected Insights

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- Partner Tilde organised a survey among potential users.
- Survey ran from 27 May 2019 until 24 June 2019.
- Generated 158 responses (50 partial responses; 108 complete responses analysed).
- Some of the questions are relevant for shaping our business and operations plan.
- Tilde also carried out several interviews that confirm the survey findings.

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D3.1
Requirements and Design Guidelines

Authors:	Julija Melnika (TILDE), Andis Lagzdiņš (TILDE), Uldis Siliņš (TILDE), Raivis Skadins (TILDE), Andrejs Vasiļjevs (TILDE)
Dissemination Level:	Public
Date:	30-06-2019

# User Survey: Selected Insights 1/2

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- Organisation type: 66% research, 23% industry

  ◦ Role: 80% of respondents are researchers or developers

  ◦ Activities: LT research (80%), LT development (60%), LT services (44%), teaching (48%)

- Deposit data sets online: yes (61%), no (31%)

  ◦ 73% use institutional repositories to deposit data sets

  ◦ 78% use software repositories to deposit software tools

- Respondents share tools (88%), data sets (70%), annotated data sets (65%) etc.

- Reasons for submitting content: promotion (71%), goodwill (64%), reproducibility (55%)

- Difficulties in the process: copyright/IPR (42%), license (35%), submission process (30%)

User Survey: Selected Insights 2/2
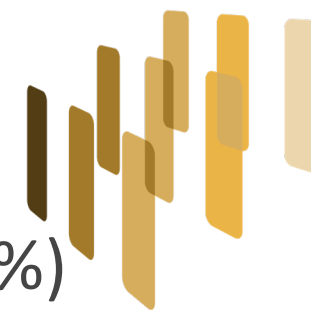
- Would you provide software as a container? yes (70%), no (12%)

- Importance of a central LT platform? important or very important (66%)

- Preference for handling payment: through ELG (60%), yourself (60%)

- Fee for the platform? 10-20% (36%), up to 10% (29%), no fee at all (14%)

- Interested in using LT/LRs tools? (89%), corpora (88%), lexical LRs (76%)

- Do you want to contribute LT/LRs tools? (64%), data sets (61%), lexical LRs (45%)
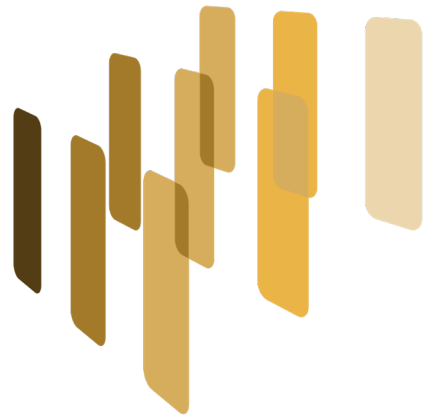
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Summary

ELG Legal Entity: Summary and Next Steps

- Our ambition is for the ELG to develop into the primary platform for LT in Europe.
  - *From* the European LT community *for* the community – with an emphasis on industry.
  - Market place for the European LT business space.
  - The user survey demonstrates that the European LT community is very interested in the overall setup; there are also some reservations.
- Sustainability of ELG – business and operations plan:
  - We're in the very early stages but wanted to start the discussion already now.
  - LTC and IAB to act as sounding boards within ELG.
- Timeline:
  - Arrive at a consensus by approx. Q2/2020.
  - Establish legal entity in approx. Q1/2021.

Corresponding ELG deliverables:

First ELG Sustainability Plan	April 2020
Final ELG Sustainability Plan	April 2021
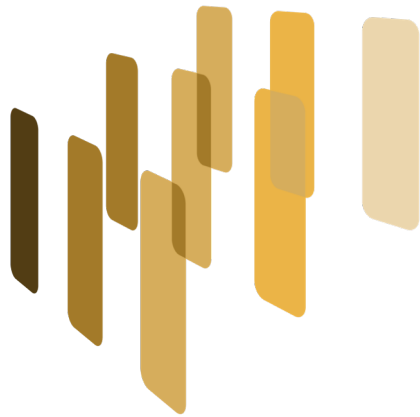
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Thank you!

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