Collaborating with the EGEE project in FP7

The Enabling Grids for E-SciencE (http://www.eu-egee.org) project brings together scientists and engineers from more than 90 institutions in over 30 countries world-wide to provide a seamless Grid infrastructure that is available for scientist 24 hours-a-day. Conceived form the start as a four-year project, the second two year phase started on 1 April 2006, and is co-funded by the European Commission. Expanding from originally two scientific fields, high energy physics and life sciences, EGEE now integrates applications form many scientific fields, ranging from geology to computational chemistry. The EGEE production service is constantly growing, currently combining more than 30,000 CPUs and 7PB of storage in more than 220 sites worldwide. Long-term goals for Grid computing must go further and aim to make Grid facilities available and easily accessible to numerous and diverse domains, including industry, science and the humanities in a reliable and transparent way. In order to achieve these ambitious goals, EGEE works with a range of other projects and initiatives. Already during the first phase of the project, and more prominently during the first year of EGEE-II, EGEE has established a number of fruitful collaborations with related projects (http://cern.ch/egee-technical/related-projects/list-projects.htm).

Alongside work expanding the geographical coverage of Grids, increasing their potential and enlarging the user base, other projects are working toward extending the functional reach of Grids. Application projects are focused on working with communities of current and potential Grid users, to capture their requirements and translate them into software that can exploit the computing power and data management facilities of Grids. In particular, EGEE is supporting applications that build on EGEE's middleware distribution, called gLite (http://www.glite.org), to provide the specific functionality required for particular research domains or sectors. As well as the computing infrastructure, the adoption of Grid technology requires many other facilities and services to be put in place. Projects in areas including computer security, e-Infrastructure policy, education, dissemination and software testing are all adding essential parts to the Grid landscape.

EGEE plans to carry on these collaborations in the 7th Framework Programme and in the next phase of the project, EGEE-3, that will be submitted to the European Commission in September 2007.

EGEE has put in place a comprehensive package for related projects to access the tools and the knowledge needed for them to exploit the EGEE Grid, and to establish a network of contacts with people and other projects working in the field. This package includes:
- various training events for Grid users, applications developers and site administrators;
- open discussion mailing lists, technical documentation and general user support;
- grid middleware software and associated support, operational tools and procedures;
- regular networking events like user forums, conferences and concertation events.

These channels facilitate the adoption and usage of EGEE results by the EGEE user communities and related projects. New projects that seek a closer collaboration may also plan to make good use of partners that are common to EGEE and their project to ensure the effective transfer of Grid expertise and to act as links to EGEE.
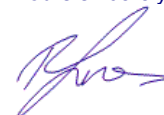
EGEE is particularly interested to establish and strengthen synergies with projects that:
- bring together user communities on an international level and expect to demonstrate concrete practical results;
- are willing to make computing resources available for their applications in the common shared infrastructure;
- have software expertise and are planning to gridify applications exploiting gLite functionality.

Results of these collaborations are also achievements for the international Grid community. They reward the effort invested in EGEE and the related projects and act as a motivating force for a collaboration that profits both parties. Projects that plan to address one or more of the above mentioned objectives and would like to collaborate with EGEE can contact the EGEE Related Project Liaison Office at the following address project-eu-egee-rp-lo@cern.ch.

We wish you great success for your projects in the 7th Framework Programme.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Jones
EGEE-II Project Director