NEWS RELEASE

Connecting the Knowledge of Today for the Value of Tomorrow

New Delhi, 14 December 2006 – India is on the threshold of becoming a frontline knowledge and innovation hub thanks to the power and potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) that the country starting harnessing successfully in the last decade. One of the major milestones of the European Union has been its Research and Development strategies to spur innovation and economic growth. Consolidated resources and far-sighted planning have enabled the Union to focalise not only on European but also trans-national priorities embracing the needs of technology savvy states as well as new players. The world's most advanced research and education network, GÉANT2, which now connects all major continents, represents a major step towards a global IT community with enormous potential for collaboration across expanding frontiers.

Over 300 participants from India and across Europe are gathering together at the BELIEF 1st International Conference. Key EU and Indian players from government (27%), industry (30%), research (35%) and non-profit organisations (8%) will discuss and plan how the two regions can capitalise on the new infrastructure facilities and technologies. Key issues, challenges and opportunities will be explored through the visionary plenary sessions led by policy- and decision makers, as well as during the diverse and rich parallel sessions, and the Information and Training Sessions. The Get-In-Touch Sessions will provide a forum where participants can interact, exchange ideas and knowledge to pinpoint future collaboration projects for mutual benefit. In addition, participants will benefit from learning more about European and Indian e-infrastructures and Grid-empowered technologies displayed in the PromotionalZone, in the Hotel Foyer.

The **Welcome Addresses (9.00-1030)** will highlight the importance of e-Infrastructures to both Europe and India and how the discussions taking place over the next two days are key for driving forward innovation between the two regions. These Addresses will be delivered by leading research and government figures, at the forefront of e-Infrastructures. This Plenary will be chaired by **Professor Dany Vandromme**,GÉANT2 and e-Infrastructure Reflection Group (e-IRG). The addresses will be delivered by **Francisco Da Camara Gomes**, Head of the EC Delegation to India; **Mr N Vijayaditya** of the Department of Information Technology (DIT), Government of India; and **Geeta Kathpalia**, ERNET, as well as **Stephen Benians**, the BELIEF Project Co-ordinator.

The **Keynote Addresses** will be made by reputed experts, presenting the challenges that lie ahead and visions for future development. These talks will inspire ideas and raise questions for further discussion during the conference. Addressing the audience will be **Dr BK Gairola**, DG, NIC, Government of India; **Pankaj Agrawal**, Joint Secretary, Department of Information Technology (DIT), India; **S. Ramakrishna**, DG, C-DAC; **Dany Vandromme**, GÉANT2 and e-IRG, and **Ognjen Prnjat**, GRNET (Greek Research & Technology Network). This session will be an opportunity to open up the debate to all participants, starting the momentum for the parallel sessions, the first of which begin in the afternoon.

Session A1 – Government-delivered Services Driving e-Infrastructures, 14.00-15.35.
Chaired by **Pankaj Agrawala** and **Ognjen Prnjat**, this session focuses on the main drivers of e-Infrastructures in Europe and India, investigating how government and public-funded programmes spur the development of e-Infrastructures. The presentation by **Professor Mogens Kuehn Pedersen**, Copenhagen Business School revolves around issues relating to open standards provision for e-Infrastructures, the promotion of the implementation of open standards and open source applications in government, as well as the institutional impact of e-Infrastructure evolution on a national and European level. **Ravi Gupta**, Director of the Centre for Science, Development and Media Studies, India, will explore national e-Governance visions with particular reference to the National e-Governance Action Plan (NeGP). The presentation discusses the aims of NeGP and its core e-Government infrastructure, training and capacity building requirements, as well as the major issues involved in its implementation. In a presentation entitled 'SWAN, Community Information',

Ashish Sanyal, Sr. Director, will provide further insight into key issues related to government services and address key issues in this domain.

Session B1 – Connectivity and Sustainability: Outreach to New User Communities, 14.00-15.35. Professor Peter Kirstein, University College London, and **AB Saha**, C-DAC Kolkata, will chair this session focusing on existing connectivity and how to ensure current and future sustainability. **Dr Peter Tomsu** (CISCO, Austria) examines the role of Networked Supercomputing, highlighting the advantages of scientific and commercial High Performance Compute (HPC) clusters with regard to increased performance, profitability, and competitiveness, by reducing the time to generate results and bring products to market products, enabling organisations to better align investment. This presentation also considers key technological requirements for the adoption of HPC. **Professor Dany Vandromme**'s presentation, 'GÉANT: European Research Network Infrastructures and their Global Reach' provides valuable insight into GÉANT in its first and now second phases, which connects 3500 research and education networks. Professor Vandromme will illustrate how and where its network operates, highlighting the importance of addressing the digital divide, in addition to the key roles played by services and usage, governance and policy. Indian perspectives will be explored by **Dr Gulshan Rai** and **Dr Govind**, DIT, providing a bilateral overview on connectivity and sustainability in the wake of the new high-speed communication link between Europe and India.

Session A2 – e-Health, 16.00-17.35. Chairs: **Nicolas Jacq**, SHARE Project & EGEE WISDOM-II, and **Dr UP Phadke**, Government of India. **Dr Luciano Milanesi**, Institute of Biomedical Technologies, CNR, Italy explores Bio-informatics challenges in e-Heath applications. His presentation focuses on the potential of new biological and biomedical technological platforms connected with HPC and Grid technology, which provide effective tools for dealing with the increasing amount, complexity and heterogeneity of biomedical data. Dr Milanesi illustrates two case studies in the arena of European Bio-informatics initiative, that is, the infrastructures developed by EGEE and BioinfoGrid projects. Nicolas Jacq's (CNRS – IN2P3 France) presentation spotlights Grid technologies combating neglected and emerging diseases, a major public health concern in many countries across the globe. This presentation on EGEE's large-scale Grid-enabled *in silico* drug discovery initiative, now in its second phase, will show how this Grid infrastructure is reducing R&D costs by significantly speeding up the time needed to carry out large-scale virtual docking against malaria. This talk will present the WISDOM initiative, illustrating the results of the second large-scale deployment on Grid infrastructures against malaria. **Professor Saroj Kanta Mishra**, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Science, will provide insight into India's e-Health infrastructure, network & applications and the challenges the country faces in catering to the healthcare needs of 1.4 billion people. Around 400 telemedicine platforms exist around the country today, mostly funded by the government and its agencies, and ICT technologies are increasingly being deployed in both the private and public sector. This presentation discusses recent government strategies with particular reference to the National Task on Telemedicine. **BS Bedi**, DIT, will further the debate, exploring the arena of Tele-health technology and its development and deployment across India.

Session B2 – Scientific Repositories and Future Knowledge Infrastructures, 14.00-15.35. Chaired by **Dr DK Chakravarti**, Advisor to the Government of India and **Devika Madalli**, this session centres on various European and Indian projects on Digital Libraries, Institutional Repositories and Open Courseware, highlighting their advantages for data collection and preservation. In a presentation entitled *Cross-Organisation Knowledge Management Infrastructures: DILIGENT & DRIVER*, **George Kakaletris** (GRNET, Greece) explores the challenges of building an infrastructure supporting cross-organisation knowledge management. Showcasing two EC-funded projects, DILIGENT and DRIVER, this presentation illustrates the development and deployment of both simple and more complex concepts needed to achieve quality services in this domain. DRIVER is developing a distributed pan-European infrastructure supporting the creation of a scientific digital repository by integrating 51 repositories on a national, regional and thematic level, while DILIGENT will validate an e-Infrastructure dedicated to the Humanities and one for Earth Observation. The presentation by **Dr Kai Kumpf** (Fraunhofer SCAI) revolves around semantic mediation for data Grids, taking as the starting point the fact that domain-specific resources carry their service description implicitly in their data model schema. This presentation describes an approach for a semantically integrated data grid that makes optimal use of implicit information in conjunction with a global binding knowledge model. As a result, service and data querying becomes two stages of a unified process. This architecture is currently under construction in the @neurIST project. **Dr H.K. Kaul**, DELNET, India provides an overview of the development of institutional repositories, in

addition to the policies assisting the creation of digital resources in India. By promoting the creation of articles, conference papers, teaching materials and projects in digital format, diverse institutional repositories have been created. This presentation illustrates case studies of repositories developed by major Indian institutions and discusses government policy aimed at creating repositories for the wider community. **Professor ARD Prasad**, Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore focuses on the work carried out by Indian institutions with regard to Open Access Journals, Institutional Repositories, and Open Course ware. By pinpointing potential players, that is, institutions, organisations and funding agencies, Professor Prasad will indicate how future infrastructures facilitating scientific repositories can be built. Additionally, this presentation proposes the type of scientific content that could be made available in these repositories, and how these tools can be developed in collaboration with the EU, by bringing on board both EU and Indian researchers for knowledge exchange and mutual benefit.