NEWS RELEASE:2

Connecting the Knowledge of Today for the Value of Tomorrow

New Delhi, 15 December 2006 – Discussions and networking sessions continue to gain momentum in the second day of the BELIEF International Conference dedicated to e-Infrastructures. Today the focus will be on how e-Infrastructures play a key role in reducing the digital divide in emerging economies, enable Businesses, enhance distance and e-Learning, as well as mobile Grid and convergence.

Session A3: e-Infrastructures Reducing the Digital Divide in Emerging Economies,10.00-11.35. Chaired by **Professor Jan Goossenaerts**, Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands and Ashish Sanyal, Sr. Director, India, this session explores and evaluates the role of e-Infrastructures in reducing the digital divide, highlighting their potential to accelerate this reduction through a series of case studies. In a presentation entitled 'Empowering Rural India through Internet Connections in Villages', **Dr Ashok Jhunjhunwala**, Indian Institute of Technology, discusses the efforts and experiments carried out in India towards this objective and the learning experiences that have been possible so far. Connecting Rural India is indeed going to happen in the near future. The key is to build and drive services that help both to transform lives and to evolve scalable business models for delivery. **Professor Peter Kirstein** provides insight into two projects, 6DISS and Silk, explaining how they aim to tackle the Digital Divide. The 6DISS project promotes the widespread adoption of IPv6 by providing IPv6 training and knowledge transfer in developing regions with training organised in Europe, Africa, SE Asia and S America. The Silk project is providing satellite-based Internet access to the NIS countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia and Afghanistan. Specifics will be given of the communications, real-time and information services, training and moves towards sustainability in the NRENs served. As the web and wireless e-infrastructure is rolled out ubiquitously, which complementary people-centric initiatives can boost the social return on technology investment? This is the question that **Professor Jan Goossenaerts**, Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands seeks to answer on the basis of several cases with a remarkable interaction of technology push, demand pull and institutional agility. These issues are further explored by **Osama Manzar**, Digital Empowerment Foundation.

Session B3: e-Infrastructures for Enabling Business, 10.00-11.35. **Dr Simon Taylor**, Brunel University & GridAlliance (UK) and Ashok Kar, Infra Technologies, France will be chairing this session that aims to promote the industrial take-up of e-Infrastructures and Grid technologies through case studies and real-life scenarios. BELIEF Conference sponsors of the Welcome Networking, Avanade and its representatives **Sanjay Podder**, **Neville Dubash**, and **Dave Parag**, are showcasing the Avanade Grid Architecture Solution, which enables the execution of computational intensive task by distributing the load on a Grid of computing nodes based on commodity hardware that enterprises already have, bringing a number of advantages while conforming with emerging Grid Computing standards. **Francesco Nucci**, Engineering (Italy) focuses is on how R&D can be best adopted in business applications and models based on the experiences, methodology, approach and visions of his company (one of the most important Italian enterprises in this field). The case studies include business applications/models for two EC-funded projects. **Moni Madaswarmy**, DIT, examines a number of government initiatives that essential for both SMEs and the digital inclusion of Rural Prosperity in India. Using two case studies, **Dr Simon Taylor** will illustrate how Brunel University and the Grid Alliance have successfully implemented two Desktop Grid Computing Systems to support decision making in the financial sector and manufacturing, bringing a number of benefits. This presentation will also demonstrate how barriers to Grid adoption can be overcome. **Uwe Radetski**, IT-Innovation Centre, University of Southampton (UK) presents the EC-funded SIMDAT Project. The consortium comprises leading software and process system developers and representatives from strategic industry and service sectors: Audi, BAESystems, DWD, EADS, ESI, EUMETSAT, ECMWF, GlaxoSmithKline, MeteoFrance, Renault, and the UK Met Office. This presentation will examine each SIMDAT application sector to understand the business drivers underlying decisions to participate in

Grid-based business partnerships and shows how these business drivers impact the B2B infrastructure choices that are adopted.

Session A4: e-Infrastructures for Distance and e-Learning, 11.55-13.30. Chaired by **Professor Pierluigi Ritrovato**, Salerno University (Italy) and **Dolly Bashin**, SPH Consultants, India, this session evaluates the impact of e-Infrastructures on distance and e-learning by through a series of case studies. **Professor Krithi Ramamritham**, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, presents 'Educating Rural Folk Ground-Up: The aAQUA Experience, which simultaneously addresses two major challenges in farmer outreach programmes – geographic reach and customised delivery. This paper will show the utility of various component databases built into aAQUA to enhance the QoS delivered to rural populations. **Professor Pierluigi Ritrovato** analyses the experience gained by the Italian Pole of Excellence on Learning and Knowledge in the frame of the European Learning Grid Infrastructure (EU-funded) project. The EleGI project is concerned with the use of Grid technologies for supporting the implementation and adoption of a pedagogy driven, user centred learning model, enabling experiential based and contextualised learning approaches. **Professor MM Pant**, Planet Edu Pvt Ltd (India) identifies and illustrates key elements of the infrastructure, and the opportunities that India could have in providing remotely delivered educational services over this augmented network. Possible implementation models at all stages from elementary school to life-span education will be presented. The presentation by **N. Sayanarayana**, C-DAC Hyderabad (India) focuses on C-DAC's e-Learning activities, standards and future direction. C-DAC has developed a multilingual e-Learning framework, designed certificate courses for IT professionals and network/system security personnel. Additionally, N. Sayanarayana will highlight key factors and requirements to create an effective base for sustainability.

Session B4: Mobile Grid and e-Infrastructure Convergence, 11.55-13.30. Chaired by **DK Arvind**, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK and **RN Padukone**, Telecom Engineering Centre, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, India, this session explores the possibilities posed by the convergence of e-Infrastructures and mobile technology, investigating how the use of infrastructure by business in India can be increased and what the opportunities are for co-operation with Europe. **Dr Ake Edlund**, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm, (Sweden) presents the EC-funded Enabling Grids for EsciencE (EGEE) project, placing emphasis on collaboration in the area of security towards interoperability between e-Infrastructures. The information from the Specknet can be stored, manipulated and shared across the Grid. **DK Arvind**'s presentation on Convergence of Mobile Ad-hoc Wireless Sensor Networks and the Grid will explore the potential of the convergence of wireless sensor networks and the Grid infrastructure in areas ranging from agriculture to health and environmental monitoring.

The Closing Plenary features Addresses delivered by **Dr Gulshan Rai**, Driector of ERNET, **Bruno LeDantec**, ERCIM (France), **Dr Govind**, DIT, India, and **Stefano Cozzini**, representing the EU-IndiaGrid Project. These speeches will round up the discussions taking place within the conference and pinpoint future opportunities for co-operation between the two regions. Lives links to Europe will bring participants into contact with **Dr Bob Jones**, EGEE-II Project Director, CERN (Switzerland) and **Ulf Dahlsten**, European Commission, DG INFOS, Directorate F (Brussels). These video links will provide a vision for driving forward technological advances for the benefit of both Europe and India. This will be followed by a panel discussion in which **Sandip Chatterjee**, contact point for the EU's seventh Framework Programme, and special delegates **Dr BK Murthy**, Head of International Co-operation, DIT; **Rajneeswh Agrawal**, International Co-operation, DIT; and **Mr BB Tiwari**, ERNET. The conference will be officially closed by **Dr Gulshan Rai**.