

Dear EGEE-II project members,

This is the first of a series of monthly letters which you will receive from now on. Through these letters, I wish to inform you of the latest major developments and decisions in the project, and keep you up to date with forthcoming events which are important for the project as a whole. Please consider the information transmitted in these letters as confidential to the EGEE-II consortium.

Last month saw the close of the first conference of the EGEE-II project, EGEE'06 in Geneva. Over 700 representatives from a large number of Grid projects attended the event, fine-tuning their developments and formulating plans for the future of Grid technologies. A dedicated business track, a mini user forum in parallel with cross-activity and related project meetings, characterised the diversity in the content of the conference, which marked the first six months of the project. The conference also saw the kick-off of the VO managers group, led by Frederic Schaer ([frederic.schaer@cea.fr](mailto:frederic.schaer@cea.fr)), which is intended to improve the information flow and communication within our user communities and within the project. Another outcome of the conference was that the collaborating infrastructure projects agreed to use future EGEE events, such as the User Forum and Conference, as a common meeting point. The EGEE User Forum will be held in Manchester on 7-11 May 2007, and the next EGEE conference, EGEE'07, will be held in Budapest on 1-5 October 2007.

The main technical goal for the end of the year is to release the gLite distribution with support for 64bit architectures, the upgrade of our globus components to GT4-pre-webservice, and support for Debian alongside scalability, reliability, and performance improvements. For further details I encourage you to look at the work of the Technical Coordination Group, led by the Technical Director (Erwin Laure) and involving representatives from all the major stakeholders of the project (applications, operations, middleware developers and integrators, and a representative of the Industry Task Force): <http://cern.ch/egee-intranet/NA1/TCG/tcg.htm>, in particular the JRA1 workplan.

Looking further ahead, the Project Management is working on plans in the context of the upcoming calls in the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme of the EU for a third phase of the EGEE project as well as the long term sustainability of the infrastructure (referred to as European Grid Initiative or EGI). They will meet in October and December to be ready for proposal preparation in the first quarter of 2007. A coordinator has been appointed by the PMB to drive the preparation of the EGI proposal, namely Dieter Kranzlmüller from Johannes-Kepler University in Austria (former EGEE Project Deputy Director). Please provide input to your PMB members and activity leaders to help in formulating these plans.

Yours sincerely,



Bob Jones  
EGEE-II Project Director

#### Upcoming events:

| Month    | Event  | URL   |
|----------|--|---|
| October  | 15-18, CGW06, Cracow Grid Workshop, Cracow, Poland           | <a href="http://www.cyfronet.pl/cgw06/">http://www.cyfronet.pl/cgw06/</a>   |
|          | 26-27, Industry Day, Catania, Italy                          | <a href="http://www.echallenges.org/">http://www.echallenges.org/</a>   |
|          | 25-27, eChallenges e-2006, Barcelona, Spain                  | <a href="http://www.eu-egee.org/egee_events/industryday/IndustryDay_Italy_Catania/">http://www.eu-egee.org/egee_events/industryday/IndustryDay_Italy_Catania/</a> |
| November | 11-17, SC06, Tampa, USA (EGEE stand)                         | <a href="http://sc06.supercomputing.org/">http://sc06.supercomputing.org/</a>   |
|          | 22-24, IST 2006, Helsinki, Finland (Biomedical Industry day) | <a href="http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/istevent/index_en.htm">http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/istevent/index_en.htm</a> |
| December | 4- 6, e-Science 2006, Amsterdam, Netherlands                 | <a href="http://www.gridbus.org/escience/">http://www.gridbus.org/escience/</a>   |
|          | 7, Grid Crunch Day, Fribourg, Switzerland                    | <a href="http://www.euresearch.ch/grid-crunch-day">http://www.euresearch.ch/grid-crunch-day</a>   |