

Dear EGEE-II project members,

Last week saw the first project periodic review by a panel of EC-appointed reviewers, in order to assess the project's progress and evaluate the proposed plans for the second year and the future of EGEE (all presentations are available here: <http://indico.cern.ch/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=14312>). All Activities presented their achievements to date, their issues and their plans for the longer term, and were rewarded by a positive and encouraging preliminary assessment which will be followed by the official reviewers' report in June. Indeed, the reviewers praised the project in saying "the project is performing excellently", commenting on the high quality of the material and demonstrations presented, the work undertaken and the project's openness in terms of highlighting existing issues encountered and plans to mitigate them. In particular, they noticed that a "true production infrastructure is in place", the increase in number of application domains using this infrastructure, success in meeting the gLite 3 deadline, the successful interactions with other EU projects and projects outside the EU, impressive training and dissemination programmes and excellent strategy and policy work. This was tempered of course by a number of concerns, which the project itself has brought forth and which it has taken steps to resolve. These include the scalability and reliability of the software, the question of staff retention, the sustainability in the long term, the impact of the start up of the LHC and problems of interoperability. There are likely to be a large number of recommendations detailed in the reviewers' report and these will be addressed by the project, starting with an All Activity Meeting at CERN on 5 and 6 July and completed by a formal response document to the EC.

The other high point of this month was the second EGEE User Forum, held in conjunction with OGF in Manchester, 7-11 May. This event brought together the user and standards communities and set the scene for many profitable sessions and discussions over the five days. More than 900 participants registered, overtaking EGEE'06 to become the second largest Grid conference in Europe in recent years. Many posters and demonstrations were presented, highlighting real usage of the Grid. The "best demo" competition was won by Marcin Płóciennik from the Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center, Poland, who showed an application for the visualisation of plasma particles in fusion devices on the Grid. This was produced through the Interactive European Grid project, which works with EGEE as a related project.

I take this opportunity to remind you that registration for the EGEE'07 conference, due to be held in Budapest, Hungary, on 1-5 October 2007 is open at <http://www.eu-egee.org/egee07>. The series of User Forum and EGEE conference events will continue and this allows EGEE-II partners to bid to host the events. To this end, the Project Office has produced a detailed "bidder's pack" for each event which will be circulated during the month of June.

In parallel with this motivating sequence of events, the EGI Design Study proposal was submitted as planned on 2 May 2007, and it is now a matter of awaiting the results of the evaluation process. EGEE-II now turns to executing its plans for the second year, and the preparation for EGEE-III resumes in earnest, with a series of meetings with the PEB and PMB to discuss content, manpower and budget. The

federations are presently preparing their first manpower to task allocations to enable refinement of the activities proposed in the first draft of the proposal, circulated at the start of April.

On the technical front, the Technical Coordination Group has set up a number of working groups, including Medical Data Management (MDM), Short Deadline Jobs (SDJ), Message Passing (MPI) and Job Priorities (JP) (See <http://egee-intranet.web.cern.ch/egee-intranet/NA1/TCG/Workinggroups.htm>). A working group on VO management and portals is in the process of being created. If you are interested in participating to any of these groups, please contact Erwin Laure, Technical Director (Erwin.Laure@cern.ch).

My deepest thanks go to you all for the hard work, dedication and drive which have made the project a success to date and will continue to do so in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Bob Jones
EGEE-II Project Director

Upcoming events:

Month	Event	URL
June	5-7, Grid Asia 2007, Singapore	http://www.ngp.org.sg/gridasia/2007/
	12, Grids for Science and Business, Gent, Belgium	http://events.ibbt.be/grid2007/
	25-28, EELA conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	http://indico.eu-eela.org/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=81
	25-30, Joint EGEE and SEE-GRID Summer School on Grid Application Support Budapest, Hungary	www.egee.hu/grid07
	26-29, ISC 2007, Dresden, Germany	http://www.supercomp.de/
	27-29, HPDC 2007, Monterey Bay, USA	http://www.hpdc.org/
July	5-6, EGEE-II All Activity Meeting, CERN, Geneva, Switzerland.	Agenda TBD
	5-7, I. Symp. on Parallel and Distributed Computing, Hagenberg, Austria	http://www.gup.jku.at/ispdc
	8-20 International Summer School on Grid Computing (ISSGC07), Gripsholmsviken, Mariefred, Sweden	http://www.iceage-eu.org/issgc07/index.cfm
August	28-31, Euro-Par 2007 Rennes, France	http://europar2007.irisa.fr/