

EMBARGOED until the announcement of the prize winners at 16:00 GMT.

## FULL SPEED AHEAD FOR THE GRID

Manchester, 11 May 2007 – With the final plenary session, Europe's biggest Grid event ever comes to an end, with more than 900 participants gathering for the 20<sup>th</sup> Open Grid Forum (OGF20) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Enabling Grids for E-science (EGEE) User Forum. End-users, Grid experts and business representatives shared their experiences and thought about the future of the Grid, impressively demonstrating how far Grid technology has come.

Marcin Płóciennik from the Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center won the prize for best demonstration of a Grid application shown at the event sponsored by Apple Inc. On behalf of the Interactive European Grid project, he showed an application for the visualization of plasma particles in fusion devices on the Grid. This demonstrated how parallel applications, which may run remotely across several sites, can be supported on the Grid, including user-friendly interactive access and powerful visualization features.

"We need the Grid to make this activity possible," Płóciennik said. "The combination of all available resources, from computing clusters to supercomputers provided by the Grid enables us to contribute in a significant way to the design of new fusion facilities and to study plasma physics by providing solid predictions that can then be verified with the experts of the field."

Another area benefiting from using the Grid is molecular docking, which was presented in three different demonstrations, and a large user group comes from High-Energy physics; in particular the experiments of the Large Hadron Collider at CERN. The number of jobs per month reported in the central accounting system totalled more than 1.5 million for the LHC experiments and more than two million for all users. Since some sites do not account all jobs this is an under-estimate. In addition to the many different use cases of the Grid, a range of groups also showed tools to make the use of Grid simpler, ranging from portals to application programming interfaces that can be used on several Grids.

"We are very proud that this event has brought together such a large and diverse part of the Grid community," said Massimo Lamanna from CERN, chair of the User Forum programme. "This really shows what a vibrant community we have and how important it is to organise events where scientists and grid experts can meet and discuss face-to-face."

Attendees of the joint event came from a wide range of technological and scientific areas already making use of the Grid, showcasing that the Grid has become a useful tool for many sciences. Organised in conjunction with OGF20, the User Forum not only helped to improve communication between users and between users and Grid experts, but also ensured that the needs of real Grid users feed into the development of key standards.

"Grids are on their way to become a world-wide, ubiquitous, seamlessly accessible infrastructure for collaborative research," said Erwin Laure, Technical Director of EGEE. "They will link existing infrastructures, from clusters to supercomputers and data storage devices, offering new ways of

Last Update: 11/05/2007

gaining access to these resources and new possibilities for their efficient usage. To achieve this vision, local and regional Grids need to federate to international Grids – interoperability and standards are key.”

In addition to users and experts from OGF and EGEE, the joint events also provided a unique platform for a number of collaborating projects, which are providing other Grid infrastructures, delivering generic tools or services, or focussing on serving specific application domains, to discuss interoperability and standards.

EGEE will hold its next conference, EGEE'07, in Budapest, Hungary, 1-5 October 2007 ([www.eu-egee.org/egee07](http://www.eu-egee.org/egee07)). Under the theme “building bridges” this conference will provide a platform to bring together users from different communities, Grid experts, projects, countries, and business to drive forward world-class Grid technologies.

## Notes to Editor

- **About Enabling Grids for E-science**  
The Enabling Grids for E-science (EGEE) project is co-funded by the European Commission. It operates the largest multi-science Grid infrastructure in the world with more than 200 sites connected around the globe, providing researchers in both academia and industry with access to major computing resources, independent of their geographical location. For more information, see <http://www.eu-egee.org/> or contact Hannelore Hämmerle, email [hannelore.hammerle@cern.ch](mailto:hannelore.hammerle@cern.ch) or telephone +41 22 767 4176.
- **About Open Grid Forum**  
Open Grid Forum (OGF) was formed in June 2006 with the merger of the Global Grid Forum (GGF) and the Enterprise Grid Alliance (EGA). Headquartered in Chicago, OGF is a community of users, researchers, developers, and solution providers representing over 400 organisations in more than 50 countries. OGF works to accelerate grid adoption, providing an open forum for grid innovation and developing open standards for grid software interoperability. For more information, see [www.ogf.org](http://www.ogf.org).
- **About int.eu.grid**  
The Interactive European Grid project started on 1 May 2006 and will last for 24 months. The objective of the project is the deployment of an advanced Grid empowered infrastructure in the European Research Area specifically oriented to support the execution of interactive demanding applications and will guarantee interoperability with existing large e-Infrastructures like EGEE by providing basic common middleware services. The consortium involves 13 leading institutions in 7 countries (CSIC, Santander, Spain; LIP, Lisbon, Portugal; PSNC, Poznan, Poland; FZK, Karlsruhe, Germany; UAB, Barcelona, Spain; CYFRONET, Cracow, Poland; GUP, Linz, Austria; TCD, Dublin, Ireland; CESGA, Santiago de Compostela, Spain; UISAV, Bratislava, Slovakia; ICM, Warsaw, Poland; BIFI, Zaragoza, Spain; HLRS, Stuttgart, Germany), with significant computing capacity and expertise in grid technology.

Last Update: 11/05/2007