



EGEE CELEBRATES FIRST BIRTHDAY IN ATHENS

The Enabling Grids for E-science (EGEE) project celebrated its first successful year at the Third Project Conference in Athens this week. The project has already greatly exceeded the number of sites it expected to integrate on the EGEE Grid by the end of the project in March 2006, with 14,000 CPUs distributed over 130 sites to date.

The main focus of the conference was to plan for the second year of the project in the light of feedback from the European Union (EU) review which the project passed with flying colours in February this year.

Project Director, Fabrizio Gagliardi, thanked all those working in the project for their hard work and dedication, saying: "It is important to keep the momentum going and ensure this week is utilised to consolidate our plans for the next year of the project."

Special guest, the Minister of Development, Dimitrios Sioufas welcomed EGEE to Athens, saying: "It is a great honour to be hosting the third EGEE conference in Greece. I would like to congratulate EGEE on its activities aimed at providing networking and data storage services to the scientific community. I sincerely hope that your presence in Athens will be marked by very important announcements worthy of the reputation and the expectations you have created in the last year."

The conference also highlighted the close connections EGEE has with other grid projects in Europe, as the programme included keynote speakers Spyros Konidakis and Kyriakos Baxevanidis from the EC, Donatella Castelli from DILIGENT, David Snelling from NEXTGRID, Fotis Karayannis from the Hellasgrid initiative, Nikos Vogiatzis from the SEE-GRID project, and Vasilis Maglaris from the GEANT2 consortium.

Among the other key issues discussed at the conference were the certification and deployment of gLite (pronounced "gee-light") and the migration of the many applications already deployed on the infrastructure. gLite is the next generation middleware for EGEE Grid computing. Born from the collaborative efforts of 11 different academic and industrial research centres, gLite provides a leading-edge, best-of-breed framework for building grid applications tapping into the power of distributed computing and storage resources across the Internet.

The conference was organised by GRNET, the Greek Research and Technology Network, whose main mission is the provision of high-quality international and national infrastructure services to the Greek academic and research institutions. In the context of the Grid technology, GRNET takes part in the EGEE project as the South-East Federation representative. The conference was supported by the Municipality of Athens, Microsoft (main sponsor), IBM (primary sponsor), OTE (connectivity sponsor), CISCO Systems (network infrastructure sponsor), Sun Microsystems, COSMOTE, Hellasgrid task-force and Eugenides Foundation. The Ledra Marriott hotel in Athens, the venue for the conference, provided excellent facilities for the 365 delegates.

The Fourth and final EGEE conference for phase 1 of the project, will take place in Pisa in Italy between 24 and 28 October 2005.

-ENDS-

JB/22/04/05

Note to Editors:

1. For further information about the conference, please contact Hannelore Hammerle, CERN Project Office, tel: +41 7 6487 4744 or email hannelore.hammerle@cern.ch.
2. For more information about EGEE, please visit: www.eu-egee.org.
3. For more information about GRNET, please visit: www.grnet.gr.