

Dear EGEE-III project members,

On 20 January the policy board of the European Grid Initiative Design Study project officially endorsed the "EGI Blueprint" as the basis for the future pan-European grid organisation. (Its final version is available on www.eu-egi.eu/blueprint.pdf.) The blueprint gives a broad outline of how our project will be part of the transition to EGI and the details are still in the process of being defined.

To address this, as mentioned in last month's letter, there was an all-activity meeting 27-28 January, hosted by our colleagues at Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium, to discuss the transition. About 50 project members were in attendance, with representatives from all EGEE activities, the Project Management Board and the EGI Design Study project. (The slides, programme and attendance list are available online: <http://indico.cern.ch/event/45819>.)

As Steven Newhouse, EGEE technical director, mentioned in his opening comments, the transition to the European Grid Initiative needs to be seamless, without any disruption to the service for user communities. To help us promote a smooth hand-over, at this meeting all activities presented where their current operations fit in the EGI world; how their tasks interact with other activities' tasks; what assumptions are being made about how EGI will operate and what unknowns still need to be addressed.

This meeting helped improve the transition model, particularly as we rewrite our Description of Work for the project's second year to adapt our structures to the EGI model.

During the meeting it became apparent that, while there are uncertainties for key tasks from all activities, the area where the EGI model is the least developed is that of the maintenance and deployment of middleware. It is a priority then to outline the responsibility, composition and funding of the Unified Middleware Distribution and its relationship to the Middleware Unit of EGI.org, the middleware consortia and the NGIs.

Also, for grid operations, the transition to EGI could be greatly simplified if the existing tools are adopted by EGI and the current organisations continue to offer these services to EGI during an initial period. Additionally, the relations with the business community are under-developed in the blueprint and could benefit from the experience gathered by EGEE and the collaborating projects.

The most important information that will allow EGEE to continue with its transition planning is a clear statement of which NGIs will become part of EGI in 2010 and which pan-European tasks they are willing to perform. To this end, we are preparing a list of tasks for each NGI.

This NGI task list will be further developed with the EGI Design Study project in time for the 4th EGEE User Forum, 2-6 March 2009, Catania, Italy. During the event the EGI Policy Board will also announce the future location of EGI.org, which will be the central organizing body of the European Grid Initiative.

It is sure to be an exciting event—looking forward to seeing you there!

Yours sincerely,



Bob Jones
EGEE-III Project Director

The following events are organised by EGEE or will feature important EGEE contributions. For further related events please see www.isgtw.org.

Month	Event	LINK
March	2-6, 4th EGEE User Forum/OGF 25 and OGF Europe's 2nd International Event , Catania, Sicily, Italy	http://egee-uf4.eu-egee.org/
	16-30, International Winter School on Grid Computing '09 , Edinburgh, United Kingdom	http://www.iceage-eu.org/iwsgc09/index.cfm
	21-27, Computing in High Energy and Nuclear Physics , Prague, Czech Republic	http://www.particle.cz/conferences/chep2009
April	19-24, European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2009 , Vienna, Austria	http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2009

If you are organising EGEE-related events that you would like to publicise here please email Neasan O'Neill at n.oneill@qmul.ac.uk

