

Dear EGEE-II project members,

This month saw the second annual conference of the EGEE-II project, at which I was pleased to see so many of you, project members, users, collaborating projects and interested parties alike. More than 620 participants from 47 countries attended the event, with a further 90+ people following the plenary sessions of the first two days via video-conferencing (<http://vod.niif.hu/egee2007>). 86 sessions were held, with 275 talks as well as 12 live demos and 39 posters. The External Advisory Committee viewed all demonstrations and awarded the best application demo prize to "Productive end-user system for large-scale drug discovery", and the best infrastructure/tools demo prize to "GridWay interfaces for on-demand access to EGEE". The best poster prize was awarded to "Grid-based telemedicine application for the Monte Carlo dosimetric studies", voted for by the conference participants.

Three new EGEE Business Associates were announced during the conference, namely Avanade, Excelian and Hitachi, reflecting the increasing significance of grid technology in the commercial sector.

The conference also provided an opportunity for the collaborating projects to come together and network. Nearly 50 projects and organizations were present with sessions, presentations, exhibition stands and demonstrations. Twenty four projects contributed to a common EGEE and Collaborating Projects' Achievements booklet which can be downloaded from:

<http://egee-technical.web.cern.ch/egee-technical/related-projects/docs/EGEE07-RPbooklet.pdf>

The conference was also an opportunity to raise awareness about Gender in Science, through posters and the organisation of a networking lunch for women. This lunch was well attended and provided an opportunity women in a number of projects to share experiences and impressions.

All details of the conference can be viewed on <http://www.eu-egee.org/egee07/home.html>.

During the conference the Collaboration Board, Administrative Federation Committee and Project Management Board held face to face meetings. On this occasion, the main topic of discussion was the feasibility of the extension of the project by one month which would provide more time to complete the programme of work and would push back the start date of EGEE-III thereby reducing the risk of starting the project without the EC contract being signed. The boards are following up on this matter and the result will be communicated in the next Director's letter.

The Boards also discussed the EGEE-III proposal status and forthcoming activities. We received an invitation to attend a 'hearing' meeting on 23 October, and the PMB and PEB contributed to the preparation of the slides which I presented in response to the questions raised by the evaluators. The questions centered around how we intend to simplify and optimise services, the mapping of activities to objectives, commercial uptake strategies, availability of resources around LHC start-up for non-LHC VOs, long term sustainability with EGI\_DS, and IPR issues. The hearing was attended by a group of approximately 20 members, and EGEE was represented by a team of four comprising the PMB chairman (Aleksandar Belic), and the applications (Cal Loomis) and operations activity managers (Ian Bird) and myself. There was no feedback at the meeting but the next step is that we should receive the Evaluation Summary Report in early November.

#### *Next major EGEE events*

The next EGEE User Forum will be held on 11 – 14 February 2008 in Clermont Ferrand, France. The call for abstracts is now open: <http://indico.cern.ch/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=22351> and will close on 3 December. Registration will open shortly.

The EGEE'08 conference will be held in Istanbul, Turkey on 22 – 26 September 2008.

*Communications questionnaire*

As announced last month, a questionnaire will be launched in November to gather your impressions and feedback on information and communication flow from the management to the project members. We look forward to receiving your responses!

*Personnel*

Robin McConnell from the University of Edinburgh has been nominated as the new NA3 activity manager and Sy Holinger from Metaware as the NA2 deputy activity manager. We welcome these new members to the PEB and say thanks to David Fergusson and Owen Appleton for their hard work.

*Deliverables in preparation*

The following deliverable is in preparation and will be submitted to the EC in this month:

- DSA1.5: Grid Operations Cookbook

See <http://egee-jra2.web.cern.ch/EGEE-JRA2/EGEE-II/Deliverables/Deliverables.htm> for all deliverables and milestones.

Yours sincerely,





Bob Jones  
EGEE-II Project Director

**Upcoming events:**

**For a full list of EGEE and related Grid events, see:**

[http://www.eu-egee.org/egee\\_events/events](http://www.eu-egee.org/egee_events/events)

Month	Event	URL
November	10-16, SC'07 Reno, USA	<a href="http://sc07.supercomputing.org/">http://sc07.supercomputing.org/</a>
	12-13, Hybrid Artificial Intelligence Systems HAIS 07 – CAEPIA, Salamanca, Spain	<a href="http://www2.ubu.es/hais2007/">http://www2.ubu.es/hais2007/</a>
December	10-13, 3rd IEEE International Conference on e-Science and Grid Computing	<a href="http://www.escience2007.org">http://www.escience2007.org</a>