

Dear EGEE-III project members,

It was a great pleasure to see many of you in Catania at the 4th EGEE User Forum co-located with Open Grid Forum 25 & OGF-Europe's 2nd International Event. I hope you enjoyed the sun, sea food and Sicilian hospitality as much as I did.

The User Forum was a memorable milestone for the EGEE project, for the European Grid Initiative (EGI), for bodies developing grid standards like Open Grid Forum and OGF-Europe and not least for many of the individual researchers using EGEE's infrastructure.

The most eagerly anticipated news from the event was the announcement that Amsterdam is to be the host city for the European Grid Initiative. This decision makes it possible for our transition planning to continue in collaboration with other infrastructure projects moving towards EGI.

During the week, I was very pleased to sign on behalf of the project a Memorandum of Understanding with BalticGrid-II, which will aid EGEE and the Baltic States work towards a united European e-Infrastructure in preparation for EGI.

In a landmark for grid interoperability, OGF announced that they endorse the GLUE 2.0 specification as a proposed standard. The specification is a product of the international grid community, with contributions from production grids such as EGEE, Open Science Grid, TeraGrid, NorduGrid, NAREGI and practical experiences from the science collaborations around the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

The User Forum saw a number of announcements from within the project. The latest work from the Cardiogenics consortium which investigates the genetic causes of one of the world's biggest killers, coronary artery disease using the EGEE infrastructure, will be published in the March 2009 issue of Nature Genetics. Work from the ASTRA project was also featured in the London Times, BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Scotland. They used EGEE's computing power to reconstruct the "epigonion," a harp-like, stringed instrument used in ancient Greece helping an ancient instrument to become a modern star.

During the closing plenary, Vangelis Floros, Chairman of the User Forum Organising Committee, awarded several prizes. Voted for by delegates, the prize for best poster from the 37 on display went to "Large scale free energy calculations as showcase of worldwide grid usability" by Zora Strelcova, Petr Kulhanek, Jan Kmunicek, Jaroslav Koca and Ludek Matyska.

Three demonstration awards were decided by EGEE External Advisory Committee from the 18 on show, who felt unable to narrow this down to just one in the face of such fierce competition, so awarded three: best infrastructure, best application and an honourable mention.

Best infrastructure demo, due to its timely development, coverage of a 'hot' technology, integration of cloud with grid technologies and mixed environments solution was "Scaling out EGEE sites on Amazon EC2 with OpenNebula" by Ignacio Llorente, Ruben Santiago Montero, Constantino Vazquez Blanco, Javier Fontan Muiños and Rafael Moreno Vozmediano.

Best applications demo went to Alexandre Bonvin and Antonio Rosato for "The e-NMR GRID platform for structural biology." The judges felt it represented a unique, important application, was quickly adopted to the grid, had a clear development strategy and most importantly brought new resources to the grid.

The final award, an honourable mention for its ease of use, clean and simple interface, large public appeal and focus on the significance of the data went to “Digital Libraries on the grid to preserve cultural heritage” presented by Antonio Calanducci.

If you missed the demos in person you can see videos filmed by the GridTalk project, in addition to photos and commentary, on the conference blog at [www.gridcast.org](http://www.gridcast.org).

We are planning a special issue of the Journal of Grid Computing, “EGEE applications and supporting technologies” to give an opportunity to the 96 oral presenters at the User Forum, to prepare a full paper describing their work, which will be reviewed by their peers. The publishers are looking for 15-20 page papers describing original and significant work involving applications on EGEE, and the use and development of key grid technologies. If you are interested send your submission before the end of July 2009. Find out more at <http://www.editorialmanager.com/grid>.

At the Collaboration Board and Project Management Board meetings during the event, the basic outline for a reorganised programme of work for the 2nd year of the project was presented and discussed. The goal of these changes is to better align the structure and operation of the project with those in the endorsed EGI blueprint document. Scenarios for an extension of the project by several months, without additional EC funds, will also be elaborated with the consortium partners to reduce the probability of any gap during the transition process.

So finally, my warm thanks to all the organisers, including INFN and the University of Catania, the city of Catania and of course, the delegates for making this event such a success.

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](http://www.isgtw.org).

Month	Event	LINK
April	19-24, <a href="#">European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2009</a> , Vienna, Austria	<a href="http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2009">http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2009</a>
May	4-8, <a href="#">International Workshop on Workflow Management</a> , Geneva, Switzerland	<a href="http://www.swinflow.org/conf/ICWM2009/ICWM2009.htm">http://www.swinflow.org/conf/ICWM2009/ICWM2009.htm</a>
	20-21, <a href="#">Cloud Expo Europe 2009</a> , London, UK	<a href="http://www.cloudexpo-europe.com">http://www.cloudexpo-europe.com</a>
	25-29, <a href="#">Sixth High-Performance Grid Computing Workshop</a> , Rome, Italy	<a href="http://www.cs.unb.ca/profs/aubanel/hpgc">http://www.cs.unb.ca/profs/aubanel/hpgc</a>

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](mailto:n.oneill@qmul.ac.uk)

