Dear EGEE-II project members,

In consultation with the consortium representatives, PMB and PEB, the Project Office has requested a one month extension to the EGEE-II project in order to complete the programme of work. This extension, if accepted, will mean the EGEE-II project will finish on the 30th April 2008.

Following the Hearings for the EGEE-III project I informed you about in the October edition of this letter, we received the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) from the EC which rates the proposal according to specific criteria. EGEE-III scored 12 out of 15 and the key comments included in the ESR concerned reductions in the funding of JRA1, NA6 and the NA4 task for strategic discipline clusters (TNA4.2) which the PEB and PMB promptly met to address. The scenarios for meeting these cuts were presented by the Project Director on the occasion of the first pre-negotiation information day on 19 and 20 November. The first day included a session on legal and financial matters in FP7, at which the EC explained the changes in FP7 versus FP6. You can find more information in our dedicated FP7 webpage: http://egee-technical.web.cern.ch/egee-technical/towards-fp7.html. The minutes of the pre-negotiation discussions held on 20 November informed the Consortium of the criteria applicable to the project, namely a ceiling of 32 Million Euro requested contribution to complete the programme of work as described in the proposal. The general impression from the discussions with the Commission are that EGEE has made a good proposal but they question the level of funding which the project needs for groups (academic and business) to make use of the grid and development of the middleware. The reductions represent a cut of approximately 10% compared to the proposal figures but EGEE remains the flagship grid project. Further meetings will be held with the Commission during December and there is a deadline of 17th January 2008 to complete negotiations so that the contract can be signed before the proposed project start-date (1st May 2008 assuming the EGEE-II one month extension is granted).

November also saw the annual SC07 conference in Reno, US, which was attended by several members of the project. EGEE shared a booth with INFN and GRNET, and showcased Grid interoperation solutions like interoperability between gLite and UNICORE, interoperability between various SRM implementations including using SRB as backend, job submission interoperability based on the HPC basic profile, and interoperability between information systems.

As part of its Gender Action Plan activities, the Project Office organised the first "shadowing day" event, whereby students were invited to spend some time with a female member of staff to learn about IT. 11 female students from a local international school came to CERN, where they were given a presentation of the organisation and of the EGEE project, visited the ATLAS experiment and the Computer Centre and finally spent a few hours with their respective "shadowee". Further, they had the opportunity to hear about the career & experiences of two female members of staff. The day was reported in iSGTW on http://www.isgtw.org/?pid=1000757.
In the same context, a "Grids for Kids day" will be held at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in the U.K. as well as at CERN in January 2008. Details of these events will be provided in future editions of these letters.

Next major EGEE event(s)
The third EGEE User Forum will be held in Clermont-Ferrand, France on 11-14 February, 2008, jointly organised by Healthgrid and CNRS. The programme will consist of daily plenary sessions featuring distinguished keynote speakers, followed by parallel sessions focusing on grid use within the many user disciplines, and also on specific grid technologies and techniques. Sessions for live demonstrations and posters will provide a key element of the

forum. The Call for Abstracts opened on October 22 and closes on December 3, to submit an abstract, please go to http://egee-uf3.healthgrid.org/information/call-for-abstract.html.

Registration is now open! For more information and registration, please go to http://egee-uf3.healthgrid.org/.

Communication questionnaire
Many thanks to those of you who participated in the Project Communication survey launched last month. In general it seems like most of you who answered are positive regarding both the monthly director's letter (74 % read it and find it useful) and the bi-monthly newsletter (62 % read it and find it useful). The survey provided ideas on topics that the members of the project would like to see more of, for example more information on work with the related projects, activity reports and job positions. Good suggestions on how to improve our NA1 webpages were also taken on board.
The full results of the survey can be viewed on: https://edms.cern.ch/document/883952/1.

Deliverables in preparation
The following deliverables were submitted this month to the EC:
- DNA1.1.6: Quarterly Report
- DSA3.2: Report on progress of interoperability
- DSA1.6: Report on ROC progress and issues is being finalised and will be sent shortly.

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

Month	Event	URL
December	10-13, 3rd IEEE International Conference on e-Science and Grid Computing – Bangalore, India	http://www.escience2007.org
	3-5 December 2007, 3rd EELA Conference - Catania, Italy	http://www.eu-eela.org/3_conference/call_for_papers.html
	10-14 December 2007, e-Science 2007 & EU-IndiaGrid Conference - Bangalore, India	http://www.euindiagrid.eu/events/bangalore-conference/view
	18-21 December 2007, 14th IEEE International Conference on High Performance Computing - Goa, India	http://www.hipc.org/

Month	Event	URL
	Online International Winter School on Grid Computing 2008 (IWSGC'08) - CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS	http://www.iceage-eu.org/iwsgc08/
January	21-23, All Activity Meeting - Sofia, Bulgaria	TBC
February	11-14, EGEE User Forum - Clermont Ferrand, France	http://egee-uf3.healthgrid.org/