Dear EGEE-II project members,

Though the first month of 2008 is already coming to a close, I wish you all a very happy, productive and successful new year!

For the project, 2008 has started well with the completion of negotiations for EGEE-III as planned on 17 January. The Project Office worked with all partners and activities to finalise both the Grant Preparation Forms and Description of Work for the project. In parallel, the European Commission is currently processing the participant data provided and we will soon proceed with signature of the forms to start the formal Grant Agreement preparation process.

Regarding EGEE-II, the one month extension has been applied for in a formal contract amendment and we expect its imminent approval. This will delay the end of the project to 30 April 2008, after which an EGEE-II/EGEE-III transition meeting will be organised at CERN on 6 and 7 May. This meeting will give us the opportunity to welcome new and old partners and to present the administrative, financial and procedural context of the project as well as its technical programme of work. Details of this meeting will be communicated in future editions of this letter.

All Activity Meeting
The All Activity Meeting was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 21-23 January: http://indico.cern.ch/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=24443. The meeting focused on checking the progress on the first EGEE-II review recommendations (May 2007), assessing the status of the gLite restructuring plan and preparing the transition to EGEE-III. The agenda was reorganised at the last minute owing to the late arrival of participants due to dense fog at Sofia airport.

Third EGEE User Forum
The third EGEE User Forum will be the highlight of this quarter, and will be held from 11 to 14 February 2008 in Clermont Ferrand, France. This is a fantastic opportunity for all users to meet and exchange their experiences of using the Grid in their scientific field, and to present their results to the wider community. We look forward to seeing you there in great numbers, so register soon and find all details of the meeting on: http://egee-uf3.healthgrid.org/.
As for the last User Forum, a book of abstracts will be published after this event for presentation at the final review of the project.

Grids for Kids
The Project's Gender Action Team organised another successful event this month, the third "Grids for Kids" day aimed at an audience of children aged 9-13, providing an opportunity to learn about the Grid and to see the Grid environment in action. The children reacted extremely well to the activities, expressing their enthusiasm with myriad questions and ideas.
The Grids for Kids programme can be replicated by EGEE partner institutes with relative ease. The presentations can be translated into local languages, the games are available on-line, and the need for and applications of Grid computing can be illustrated with reference to local institutes. The program could also involve a visit to whatever technical infrastructure is available at the partner institutes.
If you are interested in organising such an event, consult the "how to" guide drawn out by the Gender Action Team on:
http://egee-technical.web.cern.ch/egee-technical/NA1/GENDER/GAP-EOP/Grids4Kids.htm and let the Project Office know: we will report it in our deliverables.

Dates of the final EGEE-II review
The European Commission has confirmed the dates of the final EGEE-II review, which will be held at CERN in the Council Chambers on 8 and 9 July 2008. Rehearsals will also be held at CERN, IT auditorium on 19 and 20 June and on 3 and 4 July.

Deliverables submitted recently:
- DSA1.6: Report on ROC progress and issues
- DSA3.2: Report on progress of interoperability

Changes in activity leadership

Mathieu Goutelle, activity manager of the Networking support activity, SA2, left the project at the end of December to pursue other goals. I would like to extend our warmest thanks to Mathieu for his hard work and dedication and wish him all the best for his future career. While a new activity leader is sought, Genevieve Romier, the SA2 activity deputy leader, will take on the role of activity leader in the interim.

Again, I take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the coming year, which is full of challenges and experiences for EGEE project members.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Jones
EGEE-II Project Director

Upcoming events:

Month	Event	URL
February	Feb 6-March 12, International Winter School on Grid Computing (WSGC '08),	online at http://www.iceage-eu.org/iwsgc08
	11-14, 3rd EGEE User Forum, Clermont-Ferrand, France	http://egee-uf3.healthgrid.org/
	12-14, Parallel and Distributed Computing and Networks, Innsbruck, Austria	http://www.iasted.org/conferences/home-597.html
March	3-5, OSG All-Hands Meeting, North Carolina, U.S.	http://indico.fnal.gov/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=1037
	4-7, The International Workshop on Grid Computing (WGC'08), Barcelona, Spain	http://www.ares-conference.eu/conf/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=44
	4-9, CeBIT 2008, Hannover, Germany	http://www.cebit.de/homepage_e
	9-12, K-12 School Networking Conference, Crystal City, Virginia, U.S.	http://www.k12schoolnetworking.org/2008/
	11-12, 20th GridPP Collaboration Meeting, Dublin, Ireland	http://www.gridpp.ac.uk/gridpp20/
	17-21, PerCom IEEE International Conference on Pervasive Computing and Communications, Hong Kong	http://www.percom.org/
	18-19, Telepresence World 2008, London, UK	http://www.telepresenceworld.com/
	26-28, Semantic Scientific Knowledge Integration AAAI/SSS Worksop, Stanford, California, U.S.	http://www.ksl.stanford.edu/people/dlm/sss08/home/SSKI.html