

Dear EGEE-II project members,

We have now entered the final month of the EGEE-II project, the last deliverables are being checked and preparations are under way for the project's final review in July. The EGEE production service has continued to expand in the second year of EGEE-II, in the scale of the resources connected and the quality of service provided, but more importantly the usage has grown significantly with more than 1,000,000 jobs per week being run in September 2007, or on average more than 100,000 jobs per day, an increase of almost 100% compared to January 2007. There are currently more than 130 registered virtual organizations that contain more than 7500 individuals. The virtual organization managers estimate that roughly 14000 people are directly affected by the results of these calculations.

The usage is dominated by high-energy physics and life sciences, but there is also significant use of the production grid infrastructure from other disciplines: astronomy & astrophysics, computational chemistry, earth science and fusion. These numbers testify to the hard work that you have all committed to the project, and it is your effort that formed the basis for a successfully negotiated third phase of EGEE with the European Commission.

Looking towards EGEE-III, boards and committees are now agreed and set up and will be presented during the forthcoming transition meeting, at CERN on May 6-7.

The EGEE-III project is organised on a national basis, in a consortium comprising 42 beneficiaries and a further 70 or more Joint Research Unit members working on nine activities. A refreshed web site will mark the passage from EGEE-II to EGEE-III and the tools and procedures used within the project are being updated without interruption in services from one project to the next.

Register soon for the transition meeting (limited spaces available) or attend by videoconference:

<http://egee-technical.web.cern.ch/egee-technical/EU-reviews/transition/index.htm>.

Negotiations for EGEE-III with the European Commission closed on 19 March and the two key documents for the project, namely the Grant Agreement and Consortium Agreement, are being finalised and should be signed by all parties by the end of April.

A number of you will be leaving the project at this stage and I trust that the time you have spent on EGEE has been not only rewarding but also enjoyable and will help you in your future careers. I send you all my deepest thanks for helping complete this second phase of the project which we will be proud to present to our reviewers in July. We look forward to celebrating the start of a new phase of the project, which will prepare the transition to a sustainable grid infrastructure.

Yours sincerely,



Bob Jones  
EGEE-II Project Director

Please note the project's Technical Coordination Group approved a new working group on database access:

<http://egee-intranet.web.cern.ch/egee-intranet/NA1/TCG/wgs/db.htm>

**Upcoming events:**

Month	Event	URL
May	21, Distributed Computing Workshop, London, UK	<a href="http://www.qi3.co.uk/events/event.asp?EventID=193">http://www.qi3.co.uk/events/event.asp?EventID=193</a>
June	2-4, 6th Annual International HealthGrid Meeting (HealthGrid 2008), Chicago, U.S.	<a href="http://www.healthgrid.us/chicago2008/">http://www.healthgrid.us/chicago2008/</a>
	2-6, 23rd Open Grid Forum, Barcelona, Spain	<a href="http://www.ogf.org/OGF23/">http://www.ogf.org/OGF23/</a>
	3-5, BEinGrid Industrial Event, Barcelona, Spain	<a href="http://www.beingrid.eu/517.html?&amp;tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=7&amp;tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=1&amp;cHash=bc84ba9aa8">http://www.beingrid.eu/517.html?&amp;tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=7&amp;tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=1&amp;cHash=bc84ba9aa8</a>
	4-5, 3rd CoreGRID Workshop on Grid Middleware, Barcelona, Spain	<a href="http://www.coregrid.net/mambo/content/view/590/385/">http://www.coregrid.net/mambo/content/view/590/385/</a>
	18-20, 4th International Conference on e-Social Science, Manchester, UK	<a href="http://www.ncess.ac.uk/events/conference/call/">http://www.ncess.ac.uk/events/conference/call/</a>
July	23-25, Emerging Technologies for Next Generation Grid (ENTGRID-2008), Boston, U.S.	<a href="http://etngrid.diit.unict.it/2008/index.html">http://etngrid.diit.unict.it/2008/index.html</a>
	30-4 July, High Performance Computing and Grids (HPC 2008), Cosenza, Italy	<a href="http://www.hpcc.unical.it/hpc2008">http://www.hpcc.unical.it/hpc2008</a>
	30-4 July, Third International Conference on Distributed Computing and Grid-technologies in Science and Education (GRID2008), Dubna, Russia	<a href="http://grid2008.jinr.ru/">http://grid2008.jinr.ru/</a>