

Dear EGEE-III project members,

This is the first in the series of monthly letters which I will be sending you throughout EGEE-III to update you on the progress of the project, notable events and news to keep you best informed.

EGEE-III got off to a flying start with its transition meeting on 6 and 7 May at CERN, attended by over 90 representatives of participating institutes and activity/board members, with a further dozen people following the meeting remotely via the video conference facility. The goals of this phase of the project were presented and discussed, with details of all activities' objectives as well as all the administrative procedures to ensure effective management of the project. Full details of the presentations are available on: <http://indico.cern.ch/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=30221>.

The Project Management Board held its first EGEE-III meeting on 6 May on which occasion Per Oster, from CSC in Finland was elected as chairman for the next 6 months.

EGEE-III has two complementary objectives that are essential for European research infrastructures:

- To expand and optimise Europe's largest production Grid infrastructure, namely EGEE, by continuous operation of the infrastructure, support for more user communities, and addition of further computational and data resources; and
- To prepare the migration of the existing production European Grid from a project-based model to a sustainable federated infrastructure based on National Grid Initiatives for multi-disciplinary use.

The transition to EGI was a theme throughout the meeting and the forthcoming blueprint (draft expected from the EGI_DS project next month) will help us determine what changes will need to be made to EGEE-III in its second year. There will be further occasions to EGI but we should remember that we have to keep the production infrastructure operating and complete the EGEE-III programme of work. We will come back to the subject of EGI at the EGEE'08 conference in September for which the deadline for submitting abstracts is 20th May (see www.eu-egee.org/egee08/home.html).

All the activities are already underway, and will be working hard in the first two months of the project to define their execution plans, defining exact roles and responsibilities for all participants. It is important at this stage that we identify which individuals will be working on each task. All project boards are formed and tools to communicate among project members, monitor effort and manage documentation are being finalised. The Consortium Agreement (which governs the relations between all institutes taking part in the project) is signed and the Grant Agreement with the European Commission has been received and the signature process will begin shortly.

In parallel with this intensive activity, EGEE-II is being wrapped up. We have submitted all deliverables to the Commission and are busy preparing the final reports for the review which will be held at CERN on 8 and 9 July in the Council Chambers.

I take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to you all and I looking forward to the exciting times ahead of us.

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 <http://www.isgtw.org>.

Month	Event	URL
June	2-4, 6th Annual International HealthGrid Meeting (HealthGrid 2008), Chicago, U.S.	http://www.healthgrid.us/chicago2008/
	2-6, 23rd Open Grid Forum, Barcelona, Spain	http://www.ogf.org/OGF23/
	3-5, BEinGrid Industrial Event, Barcelona, Spain	http://www.beingrid.eu/517.html?&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=7&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=1&cHash=bc84ba9aa8
	4-5, 3rd CoreGRID Workshop on Grid Middleware, Barcelona, Spain	http://www.coregrid.net/mambo/content/view/590/385/
	18-20, 4th International Conference on e-Social Science, Manchester, UK	http://www.ncess.ac.uk/events/conference/call/
July	30 June-4 July, High Performance Computing and Grids (HPC 2008), Cosenza, Italy	http://www.hpcc.unical.it/hpc2008
	30 June-4 July, Third International Conference on Distributed Computing and Grid-technologies in Science and Education (GRID2008), Dubna, Russia	http://grid2008.jinr.ru/
	6-18, International Summer School on Grid Computing, Hungary	http://www.iceage-eu.org/issgc08/index.cfm