

Dear EGEE-II project members,

In the last month, good progress has been made in planning for FP7 calls and the future of EGEE. A workshop was held on 16 and 17 October to discuss future plans, attended by the Project Management Board members and the Project Execution Board representatives.

The first day was dedicated to plans for EGI, the "European Grid Initiative" which will be a design project to prepare the ground for the long term future of the Grid.

The second day was devoted to discussion on the successor project to EGEE-II, namely EGEE-III, which will follow a similar structure with some changes to the scope of the project and the activities to fulfill the objectives. As there is only preliminary information on the call funding structures and figures, this was an opportunity for technical and managerial management to discuss and kick-off the work to write the proposal. The technical content is currently being prepared by the Project Execution Board. The Management unanimously agreed to encourage the research and academic partners in the project to organize themselves as so-called Joint Research Units, a scheme set-up by the EC to allow groupings of institutes to participate in projects, with a nominated lead partner appearing in the contract on behalf of all members. A workshop will be organized in Brussels on 1 December to present the scheme to the Collaboration. It is intended that structuring the Consortium for EGEE-III in this way will facilitate the formation of National Grid Initiatives for EGI.

The strategy on how to work with collaborating projects was also discussed to ensure EGEE can continue to expand the scope, quality and usage of the infrastructure.

A second EGI/EGEE-III workshop is planned on 13 and 14 December at CERN to continue discussions and produce a first draft proposal.

In parallel, work continues on EGEE-II and an All Activity Meeting is planned on 16-18 January 2007 to prepare the plans for the last 12 months of the project and discuss any major changes in the programme of work. This will form the basis of the project review by the European Commission, for which dates remain to be finalized.

The Technical Coordination Group followed-up the middleware development work plans (See <https://uimon.cern.ch/twiki/bin/view/EGEE/EGEEgLiteWorkPlans>) and assessed the main operational requirements (See https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/bin/view/EGEE/SA1_TCG). The gLite Workload Management Service has been undergoing severe stress testing which resulted in significant performance and reliability improvements. These improvements will soon be part of the gLite release. Work continued on support for 64bit architectures, the upgrade to Scientific Linux 4, the upgrade of our globus components to GT4-pre-webservice, and support for Debian alongside scalability, reliability, and performance improvements. These upgrades should be released by the end of 2006. The latest gLite upgrades can be found at <http://glite.web.cern.ch/glite/packages/R3.0/updates.asp>.

November will see the launch of the combined newsletter produced by NA2 and OSG in the USA, called international Science Grid This Week. Prominent representation of the project will be ensured at SC06 in Tampa, Florida and at IST 2006, in Helsinki, Finland (see "Upcoming events", below).

Yours sincerely,



Bob Jones
EGEE-II Project Director

Upcoming events:

Month	Event	URL
November	11-17, SC06, Tampa, USA (EGEE stand)	http://sc06.supercomputing.org/
	22-24, IST 2006, Helsinki, Finland (Biomedical Industry day)	http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/istevent/index_en.htm
	27 – December 1, Grids@Work, Sophia-Antipolis, France	http://www.etsi.org/plugtests/Upcoming/GRID2006/GRID2006.htm
	30 – December 1, First CoreGrid Industrial Conference, Sophia-Antipolis, France	http://www.coregrid.net/mambo/content/view/262/288/
December	1, Joint Research Unit workshop, Brussels, Belgium	http://egee-technical.web.cern.ch/egee-technical/towards FP7
	4- 6, e-Science 2006, Amsterdam, Netherlands	http://www.gridbus.org/escience/
	7, Grid Crunch Day, Fribourg, Switzerland	http://www.euresearch.ch/grid-crunch-day
January	16-18, All Activity Meeting, location TBD	

