



Collaboration highlighted at end of EGEE'06

Geneva, 29 September 2006 – The closing session of the EGEE'06 conference in Geneva, Switzerland, highlighted the interactive and fruitful discussions that brought together more than 700 representatives from many Grid projects including the Enabling Grids for E-science (EGEE) project itself, as well as users and major players in the business sector. This turnout made it the biggest Grid conference in Europe since the GGF5 meeting in Edinburgh 2002.

"The community spirit seen at EGEE'06 was overwhelming," said Bob Jones, EGEE Project Director, "both within the project consortium and with the many other organisations and projects we work with. The achievements demonstrated this week show the quantum leap Grid computing has taken in the last few years, from an interesting idea to a reliable technology adopted by a broad range of scientific and research communities."

Many Grid projects took the opportunity to fine-tune their developments and formulate plans for the future of Grid technologies at the conference. In total, a record of more than 30 Grid projects in areas varying from regional infrastructures to domain-specific applications came together, highlighting the strong international collaboration in this field. The Grid community has worked hard to build reliable infrastructures that are now used daily by a broad range of disciplines. The challenge faced by EGEE and collaborating projects is now to pave the way for a long-term sustainable Grid infrastructure, ensuring the resources and knowledge developed during its lifetime are available to researchers in Europe and beyond in years to come.

"A necessary requirement for pervasive adoption of Grid technology will be to break through non-standard barriers," emphasised Mark Linesch, from HP and President of the Open Grid Forum. "We need to bring diverse communities together to reduce overlap and align technical directions and requirements, so that we can arrive at mature Grid standards and best practices."

The next major EGEE event, the EGEE User Forum will be held jointly with the OGF20 meeting in May 2007 in Manchester, UK. This combined event will further strengthen the links between EGEE and the Open Grid Forum and will bring users and standards bodies together to ensure the future of the Grid is complemented by the establishment of key standards.

Notes to the Editor:

1. The Enabling Grids for E-science (EGEE) project is funded by the European Commission and the second two-year phase of the project (EGEE-II) began on 1 April 2006. The project operates

the largest multi-science Grid infrastructure in the world with some 200 sites connected around the globe, providing researchers in both academia and industry with access to major computing resources, independent of their geographic location. For more information see <http://www.eu-egee.org/> For more information about EGEE in general, contact Hannelore Hämmerle, EGEE Dissemination, Outreach & Communication activity manager, +41 22 767 4176 or email: hannelore.hammerle@cern.ch.

2. The Open Grid Forum (OGF) is a community of users, developers, and vendors leading the global standardization effort for grid computing. The work of OGF is carried out through community-initiated working groups, which develop standards and specifications in cooperation with other leading standards organizations, software vendors, and users. OGF hosts several events each year to further develop grid-related specifications and use cases and to share best practices. The Open Grid Forum (OGF) is the "new" organization that resulted from the merger of the Global Grid Forum (GGF) and the Enterprise Grid Alliance (EGA). For more information see <http://www.ogf.org>
3. For more information about the projects working with EGEE, see <http://cern.ch/egee-technical/related-projects/list-projects.htm>