

EGI eNewsletter 3/2009 (November)

EGI on the starting blocks

The EGI project has made considerable progress in the last few months, and is getting more and more concrete as we are approaching the end of the Design Study period (December 2009). Teams made of different people and from different countries are working together to get the project ready for March 2010, and to make it a complete success.

Since last summer, important new steps have been made toward the implementation of the sustainable grid infrastructure.

EGI Council chair

The EGI Council elected its chair on 24 September 2009, during the EGEE'09 conference in Barcelona, Spain. Per Öster, representative of the Finnish National Grid Initiative (NGI), was chosen by the European Grid Initiative (EGI) Council members to lead the project's governing body.

The election of the chair of the EGI Council constitutes another important step towards the implementation of the EGI, which aims to establish a sustainable grid service for the European scientific communities. This will be achieved through the creation of a long-term, pan-European grid infrastructure.

A new legal entity (egi.eu) is currently being established in Amsterdam, and will act as the coordinating body for EGI. Its main role will be to facilitate the interaction and collaboration between the national grid infrastructures of the different participating countries. The EGI Council, which is made up of NGIs as well as other members such as European institutions represented in the EIROforum will govern the direction of the EGI collaboration on a long term basis, and is therefore one of the key bodies in the EGI.



Per Öster, the new EGI Council chair addressing the Council members, in Barcelona

Future challenges

Per Öster has been working since 2007 as Director of Application Services at CSC, the Finnish IT Center for Science. He has been also actively involved in the EGI Design Study (EGI_DS), in which he has been responsible for the EGI promotion and links with other initiatives.

In his statement to the Council members, Öster emphasised the importance of creating a working atmosphere based on trust and transparency, and setting up good working principles, in order that the Council can carry out its mission efficiently, and meet the future challenges.

"In the next few months, important tasks await the EGI Council, including ensuring the success of the EGI proposal to the European Commission and establishing the egi.eu organization", Öster said.

EGI InSPIRE

EGI InSPIRE is the name of the project that aims to prepare the implementation of the new grid. It stands for Integrated Sustainable Pan-European Infrastructure for Researchers in Europe. This 4-year project will be submitted to the European Commission (EC) in the November call.

It has four main objectives: 1) to ensure the transition to a federated European e-infrastructure built from national resources; 2) to deliver production quality services to all its user communities; 3) to provide a scalable user support model for international research communities withing Europe and their worldwide collaborators; and 4) to ensure interoperation and interoperability with other e-infrastructures.

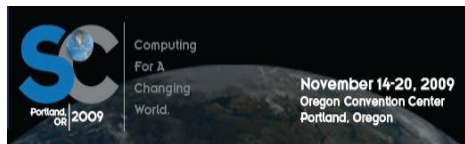
The preparation of the proposal to be submitted is led by Steven Newhouse, the egi.eu interim director, and Laura Perini, chair of the Editorial Board.

Getting ready to host egi.eu

While major efforts are being made by the editorial team to ensure the success of the EGI InSPIRE proposal, others are actively preparing the set up of egi.eu in Amsterdam. The goal is to have egi.eu established by 1 March 2010, before the start of the EGI InSPIRE project (due in May 2010). The key milestones toward this goal are the approval of the statutes of the organization by the Council, the constitution of the initial Executive Board, and the selection of the egi.eu director.

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Supercomputing 09, 14-20 November 2009, Portland, Oregon, USA



The Supercomputing Conference (SC) is the international Conference for High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage and Analysis, held once a year in North America. Based around the core activity of the conference's technical programme SC has built up a community of participants from almost every area affected by ICT, from science to government. Last year SC attracted over 11,000 attendees, and expects a bigger turnout at this year's event. SC09 will be the 22nd Supercomputing Conference.

Joint EGEE and EGI stand

This will be the third year in a row EGEE and EGI will have a stand at the event, and the two projects have set up a joint stand this year. EGI is inviting the EGI National Grid Initiatives (NGIs) to come along and promote their research and organisation on the stand through talks or demonstrations.

BOF session at SC09 on "European HPC and Grid Infrastructures"

A "Bird of a feather" (Bof) session on European HPC and Grid Infrastructures will be organised at SC09 by EGI, DEISA, PRACE and EEF, on Tuesday 17 November.

Five presentations are scheduled for this Bof: 1) "The European HPC and Grid Infrastructures" (Konstantinos Glinos, European Commission); 2) "The Distributed European Infrastructure for Supercomputing Application (DEISA)" (Hermann Lederer, Max Planck Soci-

ety); 3) The Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe (PRACE)" (Thomas Eickermann, FZG); 4) "The European Grid Initiative (EGI)" (Ludek Matuska, Masaryk University); 5) "The European eInfrastructure Forum (EEF)" (Bob Jones, CERN).

More information at <http://syourway.nacse.org/conference/view/bof159>

EGI_DS Workshop in Stockholm, 3-4 December 2009

The last EGI_DS workshop will take place in Stockholm, on 3-4 December 2009. The workshop will provide an excellent opportunity to gain the latest information on the work conducted by the EGI Design Study since 2007, and on the current status of the EGI project. Please visit the EGI website (www.eu-egi.eu) to access the full agenda of the workshop, and to register to the event.

EGI Industry Day in Vilnius, Lithuania, 17 December 2009

EGI_DS is organising together with the Lithuanian NGI an Industry Day in Vilnius on 17 December 2009. The event will focus on the role and use of the e-Infrastructures in Business, from grids to clouds. Key speakers from EGI_DS, Baltic-Grid and LitGrid, and also from private companies doing business with grids will address the audience.

Open Grid Forum in Munich, 15-19 March 2010.

OGF returns to Europe in 2010. The event will be hosted by the Ludwig Maximilian University, in Munich, Germany, from 15 to 19 March.



EGEE User Forum in Uppsala, 12-16 April.

The 5th EGEE User Forum will be held in collaboration with EGI and NDGF in Uppsala, Sweden, on 12-16 April 2010. With the establishment of sustainable European and National e-Infrastructures this event will be the ideal place for European e-Infrastructure users to meet, share experiences, and shape the future of European e-Infrastructures. The meeting is hosted by SNIC, UPPMAX and PDC.



Coming Events

Supercomputing 09
14-20 November
Portland, Oregon, USA
www.sc09.supercomputing.org

EGI_DS (last) workshop
3-4 December
Stockholm, Sweden
www.eu-egi.eu

EGI Industry Day
17 December
Vilnius, Lithuania
www.eu-egi.eu

Open Grid Forum (OGF 28)
15-19 March 2010
Munich, Germany
www.gridforum.org

EGEE User Forum
12-16 April 2010
Uppsala, Sweden
www.eu-egee.org

News from the National Grid Initiatives - Poland



Text: Zofia Mosurska, PL-Grid Dissemination Leader

The Polish Grid Initiative commenced in June 2009 as part of the PL-Grid Project funded under the framework of the Innovative Economy Operational Programme, Activity 2.3. The main purpose of the PL-Grid project is to provide the Polish scientific community with an IT platform based on Grid computer clusters, enabling e-science research in various fields.

The Project will establish a country-wide Polish Grid infrastructure supporting scientific research through integration of experimental data and results of advanced computer simulations carried out by geographically-dispersed teams. This infrastructure will be both compatible and interoperable with existing European and worldwide Grid frameworks. The system will ensure scalability and integration of additional local clusters, belonging to universities and research institutions, representing various technology platforms.

The Project is realized by the PL-Grid Consortium, created in January 2007, which consists of: 1) Academic Computer Centre CYFRONET AGH, Krakow (coordinator), 2) Interdisciplinary Centre for Mathematical and Computational Modelling, Warsaw University, 3) Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center, 4) Academic Computer Centre, Gdansk, 5) Wroclaw Centre for Networking and Supercomputing.

The PL-Grid infrastructure

PL-Grid aims at significantly extending the amount of computing resources provided

to the Polish scientific community (by approximately 215 TFlops of computing power and 2500 TB of storage capacity) and constructing a Grid system that will facilitate effective and innovative use of the available resources. In this aspect, we will focus on exploitation of computational and storage facilities by virtual organizations and on implementing a comprehensive Grid resource management suite, comprising many individual services.

PL-Grid will draw upon the experience of European initiatives such as EGEE and DEISA, the scientific results attained by individual partners and the outcome of R&D activities carried out within the project.

PL-Grid structure

The e-infrastructure developed in the framework of the Project will provide a basis on which to build specialized systems for various fields of science, involving services and tools dedicated to specific applications. The solutions applied in setting up this e-infrastructure will ensure integration with other, similar platforms around the world.

The software will comprise: 1) A resource management system, facilitating job management, monitoring applications, Grid services and infrastructure monitoring, as well as local resources; 2) A data management system with metadata catalogues, replica management, file transfer; 3) Virtual Organization systems; 4) Software libraries; 5) User tools such as portals, systems for application management, monitoring and result visualization.

Scientific software packages

The PL-Grid resources will support various software packages representing different scientific fields such as biology, quantum chemistry, physics, numerical computation and simulation.

User support

The users of PL-Grid computational resources can count on the support and professional help in solving various problems concerning access to and performing computations on these resources. We offer: 1) technical support in the adaptation of software tools to enable them to function under new conditions; 2) help in running scientific software packages on distributed computational resources; 3) technical support in the development of custom scientific applications and their deployment on the PL-Grid infrastructure.

PL-Grid and EGI

On 25 June 2009 ACC Cyfronet AGH signed (on behalf of the PL-Grid Consortium) a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the creation of EGI. In the framework of its cooperation with EGI, the PL-Grid project will be involved in: 1) Global Tasks: coordination of resource allocation and of brokering support for NGI VOs; 2) International Tasks (akin to all other NGIs); 3) Computational Chemistry – organization and management of the Computational Chemistry and Material Science and Technology Specialized Support Centre and EGI liaisons; 4) Development of unified middleware via the European Middleware Initiative; 5) Scientific application porting, especially concerning UNICORE architecture, within the Application Porting SSC.

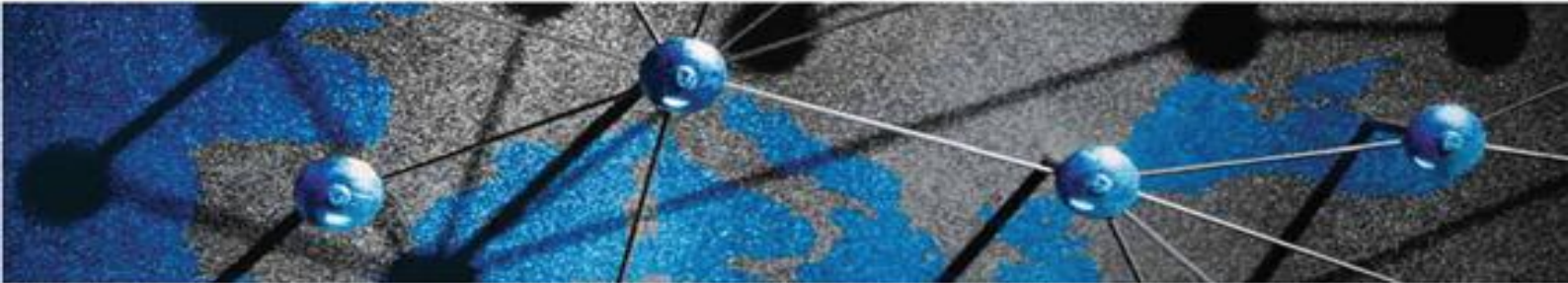
The PL-Grid project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund as part of the Innovative Economy Program

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News from the National Grid Initiatives - France



Text: Guy Wormser, Institut des Grilles

Planning the Next Grid with the French NGI

European nations are organizing their grid related activities to guarantee long term sustainability, stable operation, to develop more-robust data analysis tools, and to refine the grid middleware.

In this framework, the French NGI is the coordinating body acting in France and within the European Grid Initiative (EGI) as the representative of : the French Ministry of Education and Research, National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), the Commissariat à l'énergie atomique (CEA), the Réseau National de télécommunications pour la Technologie l'Enseignement et la Recherche (RENATER), the French National institute for Research in computer science and control (INRIA), the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), the Conférence des Présidents d'Université (CPU) and the Institut National de la santé et de la recherche médicale (INSERM).

The French NGI is based on a convention signed between all these parties establishing a "Groupement d'Intérêt

Scientifique" and CNRS will be the French NGI legal entity. 500 researchers and engineers from over 50 laboratories are members of the French NGI. The French NGI infrastructure, consisting of around 20 sites, totalizing more than 26000 cores and more than 800 daily users will be operated by the CNRS Grid Institute, l'Institut des Grilles du CNRS.

Developing a technology platform

The challenge is not only to come up with new software and middleware, but also to develop a technology platform around which a coherent european strategy. This platform will become an indispensable part of Grid daily work. Features are being added to the technology and its suite of applications, the scope in secure data transmission is being augmented, more user friendly middleware is being developed, as well as some other features.

The quest for security will be a very important focus, how to prepare the future relationships with other networks will be explained. High speed Networking related issues, operational tools and their development are areas where France's technical expertise is contributing significantly to the whole European Infrastructure.

French scientific communities

A key point for the French NGI is the development of a very wide portfolio of applications in all scientific domain. A national prospective of the potential of computing grids in France, realized in 2008 in all scientific fields, showed that there is indeed a strong

interest in the French scientific community for such an powerful instrument. France has been leading the EGEE applications area for many years and is now in charge of the Scientific Clusters coordination within EGI. Our main objective is to boost again the number of Virtual Organisations related to EGI and producing state of the art science. The French NGI is also developing as many contacts as possible between the production grid community and the computing scientists involved in Grid research and working on the research grid Grid5000. The Grid Observatory, where computing scientists analyse the production grid behaviour, is a typical example of this very fruitful collaboration.

International collaboration with developing countries

Finally, the French NGI is promoting Grids as key tools to foster international collaboration with developing countries. Special actions are taking in Asia (Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam), Latin America (thru the EELAproject) and Africa where France is very proud to have contributed, in addition to strong collaboration with Morocco and South Africa, to the creation in 2008 of the first Grid node in subsaharian Africa in Dakar, Senegal.

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e-infrastructure

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Partners: CESNET, CERN, CNRS, CSC, DFN, GRNET, LMU, INFN and STFC



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