

Dear Editors and Journalists,

Next month the world's largest multi-science grid project, Enabling Grids for E-science, will hold its annual conference in Istanbul, Turkey, 22-26 September. This event will gather international scientists, decision makers and information technology engineers. EGEE's conference is an opportunity to learn the latest about using distributed computing in fields such as business, high energy physics, life sciences, geophysics, grid security, middleware and grid sustainability.

EGEE provides a seamless, round the clock computing resource for the European and global research community. It brings together more than 140 organisations in 45 countries, and provides over 10,000 users with more than 68,000 CPUs from 255 sites.

This year's conference features key note addresses covering topics from applications to user support, including the future of grids in Europe. Dieter Kranzlmüller, of the Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich, will discuss the transition to a new model in grid infrastructures: from the current project-based approach to a sustainable, long-term European Grid Initiative. Simon Lin from the Academia Sinica Grid Computing Centre will explore the particular challenges facing the Asia Pacific region. Peter Coveney, Director of Computational Science at UCL, will describe how using computer simulations of patient data as part of the clinical decision making process promises to be a new and exciting grid application. Peter Voss, Vice President and Distinguished Engineer at Amazon.com will present, "Web Scale Computing: The Power of Infrastructure as a Service."

The increasing interest surrounding cloud computing, and its relation to grids, makes several sessions especially timely. On the opening day, 22 September, the business track will feature a session entitled "Outsourcing Applications—Grids and Clouds", while as part of the applications track, on 24 September, a session called, "New Paradigms: Clouds, Virtualization and Co" will continue the theme.

With the Large Hadron Collider, the world's most powerful particle accelerator, preparing to start up in September, the grid is approaching its most demanding phase. The LHC will produce around 15 petabytes of data every year for ten to fifteen years, which will be managed and analysed via the LHC Computing Grid (LCG). The LCG relies heavily on EGEE, which means that EGEE'08 takes place at a crucial and exciting stage for everyone involved.

We look forward to welcoming you to this event!

Bob Jones
EGEE Project Director

<http://www.eu-egee.org/>



Enabling Grids for E-Science

Enabling Grids for E-science (EGEE) is the largest multi-disciplinary grid infrastructure in the world, bringing together more than 140 organisations to produce a reliable and scalable computing resource, which is available to the European and global research community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. At present, the grid encompasses 255 sites in 45 countries and makes more than 68,000 CPUs available to some 10,000 users.

EGEE-III, co-funded by the European Commission, aims to expand and optimise the grid infrastructure. This infrastructure currently processes more than 150,000 calculations per day, from domains ranging from biomedicine to fusion. The EGEE grid infrastructure is ideal for any area of scientific research, especially for projects needing computing time and resources that would be prohibitive using traditional IT infrastructures. With the LHC preparing for the first attempt to circulate a beam on 10th September, EGEE'08 aligns perfectly with this major milestone for EGEE and the whole grid community, as the LHC has been a major driving force behind grid innovation.

EGEE'08

The EGEE conference is the major international event in the grid calendar, attracting more than 600 scientists, researchers and engineers each year. This year's conference, held in the Harbiye Askeri museum in the heart of modern Istanbul, will feature sessions on scientific applications, security, monitoring, dissemination, attracting users, management of resources, the future of grid middleware components together with the progress of EGEE and the future roadmap for grid computing.

EGEE Project Director, Bob Jones explains, "Grid computing is now an essential daily tool for an ever-increasing number of researchers and scientists to meet their e-science challenges. As EGEE and related grid infrastructures move towards a sustainable, interoperable model it is important for new and existing grid users to come together with national, regional and scientific audiences to develop and consolidate plans for a reliable, seamless infrastructure on a global scale."

"This conference is organised by TUBITAK ULAKBIM and TR-GRID, supported by the European Commission and sponsored by Intel, Dell, Proline, HPC-Wire and On-Demand Enterprise (formerly GridToday). We sincerely thank them for their contributions and hope that the confidence they have shown in the work of EGEE is an indicator of further collaboration in the future," adds Dr Jones.

Bringing together a significant number of the grid's 10,000 users from scientific domains as diverse as medical imaging, particle physics, astronomy, bio-informatics and computational chemistry, EGEE'08 will foster a cross pollination of ideas and a stronger community and infrastructure.

This year's conference will provide the perfect opportunity for both business and academic sectors to network with the EGEE communities, collaborating projects, developers and decision makers. The conference will touch on many areas of interest in grid and scientific research as well knowledge transfer opportunities and training.

The Business Track

EGEE'08 features the third annual dedicated Business Track, showcasing successful grid adoption by businesses and discussing strategies to encourage uptake by the business sector. The Business Track will explore topical issues such as grid and cloud computing, virtualisation, business and economic models, simulation and modelling as the grid moves towards a new frontier in information technology

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“We stand at a pivot point in the arena of distributed computing. The goal posts are moving,” says Adam Vile, Head of Technical Consulting at Excelian, Business Track keynote speaker and EGEE Business Associate. “Just as we are beginning to realise the benefits of compute grid, we are now facing new challenges in cloud computing and orchestration. The Business Track at EGEE’08 is an opportunity to explore these challenges and open up a new chapter in distributed computing, with businesses firmly in mind.”

Keynote Speakers

This year’s keynote speakers demonstrate the depth of work being done at EGEE and the international nature of the project. Peter Vosshall from Amazon will discuss infrastructures as services, Dieter Kranzmüller of the Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich, will be talking about the future of Grids in Europe and Vangelis Floros of GRNET will be looking back at EGEE’s notable successes and forward to the upcoming challenges. Peter Coveney, Director of the Centre for Computational Science at UCL will explore how computational simulations of medical scenarios, run over the grid, could contribute to patient care. Simon Lin, currently responsible for the Academia Sinica Grid Computing Centre, the Grid computing hub for Asia will explore the challenges and opportunities for the Asia Pacific region.

The other keynote speakers include:

Bob Jones, EGEE’s Project Director.

Maite Barroso, in charge of grid Operations in EGEE.

Oliver Keeble, who coordinates the release of the gLite distribution.

The Road Ahead

Grids are a growing technology and are starting to gain mainstream acceptance throughout the business and science communities. As the grid matures, works towards international standards and proves its reliability, it is becoming an integral part of research and industry. To sustain this growth, the infrastructure is currently moving towards a sustainable service model. This is similar to the internet infrastructure or energy grid, universally accessible but with local and national management of resources where individual countries and institutions are responsible for their various contributions to the global grid. The European Grid Initiative Design Scheme is underway to create a blueprint for the next stage in EGEE’s evolution towards a sustainable future.



Notes for Editors

The Enabling Grids for E-sciencE (EGEE) project is co-funded by the European Commission. The project aims to provide researchers in both academia and industry with access to major computing resources, independent of their geographic location.

EGEE's main aims are:

1. To build a secure, reliable and robust grid infrastructure
2. To supply a computing resource specifically intended to be used by many different scientific disciplines
3. To attract, engage and support a wide range of users from science and industry, and provide them with extensive technical and training support.

For more information see <http://www.eu-egee.org/> or contact Catherine Gater, EGEE Dissemination, Outreach and Communications Manager, on + 41 22 767 41 76 or email Catherine.Gater@cern.ch.

For conference details visit <http://egee08.eu-egee.org/>

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