

Dear EGEE-III project members,

As winter is laid to rest and the first year of EGEE-III comes to a end, the pace of project activities is ramping up in preparation for the project's second year, which starts 1 May, and the European Commission review in June.

In advance of the review, the end-of-year Periodic Report, as well as a raft of Project Month 11 (PM11) deliverables are currently in preparation, capturing our progress over the last year and outlining the way forward for the second year for each activity. These take to heart recommendations made by the project's reviewers at the end of the second phase, and embrace changes that will enable the transition to the European Grid Initiative (EGI). Formally, our revised plans for the second year of the project will be detailed in a revised Description of Work which will be presented to our management board for endorsement in May. All this work serves towards planning for the review on 24-25 June, rehearsals of which will be held on 3-4 and 17-18 of the same month.

The country reports, in which progress of project activities were reported on a national level, have been completed and a summary is available in DNA1.6.1 [<https://edms.cern.ch/document/991119/1>] which will be presented at the review. It is gratifying to see that nations are making concrete steps towards the formation of their own National Grid Infrastructures (NGIs) and supporting activities.

NGIs will play a leading role in the transition plans of EGEE-III to EGI. At the User Forum in Catania the Collaboration and Project Management Boards discussed the basic outline for a reorganised programme of work for the project's second year to better align the structure and operation of the project to the model described in the EGI Blueprint. As the timelines for the creation and start-up of the EGI became clearer in Catania, the consortium recognised there was a possibility of a gap between the planned end of the EGEE-III project and the full operation of EGI.

A questionnaire is currently in circulation with EGEE partners, due back to the project office on 20 April. The aim of this questionnaire, is for countries to provide input into the planning process for the second period of EGEE-III by ascertaining the feasibility of a project extension given countries' internal staffing constraints. This will help us ensure the basic operations and vital tools of the project remain in service if there is a gap between the end of EGEE-III and the start of EGI, even if the tasks need to be re-assigned to take into account the availability of effort within the project. The results of this questionnaire will be key in devising the second year plans.

As part of our own planning for EGI transition we have been working with other members of the EGI middleware community to expand on the details provided in the EGI Blueprint. At the Collaboration Board meeting in Catania we decided to go ahead with the formation of a gLite Consortium to provide a route for the current members of EGEE to continue to contribute to open source European grid middleware components. In collaboration with other middleware providers we are now determining how different middleware providers will contribute software to EGI.

And finally, we've been very pleased with the increased media attention the project has been attracting in recent months, due to the fine research being accomplished by many of you. A new page on the EGEE website called 'EGEE in the headlines', under the Press Room section, has been created highlighting our choicest press cuttings. I invite you to take a look.

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 www.isgtw.org.

Month	Event	LINK
May	4-8, International Workshop on Workflow Management , Geneva, Switzerland	http://www.swinflow.org/confs/ICWM2009/ICWM2009.htm
	4-8, 4th International Conference on Grid and Pervasive Computing , Geneva, Switzerland	http://gpc09.eig.ch
	20-21, Cloud Expo Europe 2009 , London, UK	http://www.cloudexpo-europe.com
	25-29, Sixth High-Performance Grid Computing Workshop , Rome, Italy	http://www.cs.unb.ca/profs/aubanel/hpgc
June	3-5, Linux Days 2009 , Geneva, Switzerland	http://2009.linuxdays.ch
	9-12, 23rd European Conference on Modelling and Simulation , Madrid, Spain	http://www.scs-europe.net/conf/ecms2009
	15, GMAC'09: Workshop Grids Meets Autonomic Computing , Barcelona, Spain	http://www.frombarcelona.org/GRIDmeetsAC
	23-26, ISCO9 International Supercomputing Conference , Hamburg, Germany	http://www.supercomp.de/isc09
	28-1 July, HealthGrid09 , Berlin, Germany	http://berlin2009.healthgrid.org

If you are organising EGEE-related events that you would like to publicise here please email Neasan O'Neill at n.oneill@qmul.ac.uk