

Dear EGEE-III project members,

Before wishing you the very best of well-deserved holidays, I'd like to highlight a few points from the last EGEE project review by a European Commission appointed panel, over the days of the 24th and 25th of June. These yearly reviews, major events for everyone involved in the project, evaluate the degree to which we have fulfilled the original work plan. As with previous reviews, the panel's feedback after two days of presentations about the progress and direction was predominantly positive.

During the feedback session John Martin, speaking on behalf of the reviewer panel, commended the scale of the production infrastructure, the increasing size of the user base, the excellent training programme, and expressed appreciation for the follow up of recommendations from previous years (notably on interoperability, progress with IPv6, progress with following and implementing standards). They approved also of the closer workings between SA3 and JRA1 and the roll back feature for software releases.

Having a job to do beyond giving praise, the reviewers also expressed their concerns and advice. The priority for next year must be consolidation and preparation for change, rather than normal improvements that would apply to a project that follows year on year. They were concerned about the way some project statistics were collected and calculated, particularly relating to reliability and problem solving times, believing these were not as useful to users as they could be. This will be expanded in their written report which the project expects to receive mid-Summer. They also recommended identifying poorly performing sites and advertising these to the NGIs. They felt software development should be more formalized and engineered, with the next year's work focusing on a stable version of gLite with SL5 support. The reviewers concluded with the thought that, in the interest of focusing efforts, some areas within the project could assume lower significance: focusing resources is the order of the day.

On the subject of transition, the latest news in preparation for EGI is that more than 20 parties (including CERN) have signed the EGI Memorandum of Understanding. With this number the required quorum for establishing the EGI Council has been met. Progress can be followed at: <http://web.eu-egi.eu/partners/egi-council/>. The first Council meeting will take place on July 9th in Amsterdam.

The main topics will be the formal Council establishment, chairperson election, and the discussion of the proposals related to EGI. These are: the EGI proposal itself which will fund the establishment of EGI.eu (the coordinating organisation) and the operational infrastructure shared across the NGIs needed to run a successful production grid infrastructure; the Specialised Support Centre (SSC) proposals which will fund the engagement of application communities with the European e-Infrastructure and related activities (such as training, application porting and outreach); and the European Middleware Initiative (EMI) that will bring together key European software providers to continue the maintenance and support of the core software components in current production use.

Looking forward to September, Early Bird registration for the final EGEE conference in Barcelona (21-25 September) ends on 10 July. Register, if you have not already done so, at <http://egee09.eu-egee.org/>. A draft programme is posted online at the project website. This event will be a seminal milestone for the entire European grid community. And with that, I wish you the best of relaxing, sun-filled holidays.

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](http://www.isgtw.org).

Month	Event	LINK
August	31 August-4 September, <a href="#">GridKa School</a> , Karlsruhe, Germany	<a href="http://www.fzk.de/gks09">www.fzk.de/gks09</a>
September	10-11, <a href="#">Biomedical Informatics Without Borders: From Collaboration To Implementation</a> , Wellcome Trust, London, UK	<a href="http://cancerinformatics.org.uk/nci-ncri2009conference">cancerinformatics.org.uk/nci-ncri2009conference</a>
	21-25, <a href="#">EGEE'09</a> , Barcelona, Spain	<a href="http://egee09.eu-egee.org">egee09.eu-egee.org</a>

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](mailto:n.oneill@qmul.ac.uk)

