Dear EGEE-III project members,

With the hopes that you have been enjoying your summer holidays as much as I have, it is my pleasure to touch base with you once more.

As forecasted in last month's director's letter, we've received the written report from the EC-appointed review panel who, in late June, listened to two days of presentations about the state and direction of the project and followed the live demonstrations of applications and software developments.

The large scale of the infrastructure, the scope of the engagement with a diverse user community and a successful comprehensive training programme were commended by the review panel. The progress made on interoperability, the adoption of OGF standards in production grids, IPv6 support and the better balance between middleware development, testing and deployment were also noted.

The panel commended the project for planning well in advance for the transition to the European Grid Initiative. All of our suggested changes to the Description of Work for transitioning to the EGI model during the next year of the project—as well as all deliverables and milestones—were approved.

While the full details of how EGI will come in to form are still being finalised, this endorsement gives us added confidence that we are headed in the right direction to meet our goals. The most important of which is that we work with the projects coming after EGEE to ensure that there is a smooth, continued support of the infrastructure into EGI. The project is rated as having made "good to excellent progress" (the top rating available) and 19 recommendations were made which will be the subject of a dedicated face-to-face meeting of the activity managers in early September.

An important check point in our preparations for EGI will be the EGEE'09 conference in Barcelona, 21-25 September. Many of our activities will be using the meeting to report on their progress on implementing the changes needed for the transition to EGI and planning the activity for the final six months of the project. The community will also be using this meeting to elaborate details of the EC projects that will be submitted to continue the work started within EGEE.

After this event, we'll have a clearer picture of which NGIs will be contributing to the infrastructure and who will be providing the critical EGI services. The SSCs will have established their links with their European wide community stakeholders and the support they will be obtaining from interested NGIs. The middleware consortia will also be able to present their view as to how European middleware will evolve in the EGI era.

Additionally, we look forward to welcoming a large number of representatives from ESFRI projects as participants in a special EGEE-ESFRI session, planned for the Monday and Tuesday. These sessions should yield a greater understanding by the European e-infrastructure providers as to the requirements of the European Research community for adoption of e-infrastructure. The conference as a whole will show some of the benefits that e-infrastructure can bring to research communities.

In addition to ESFRI and NGIs, the conference will feature, as in the past, a large number of sessions chaired by EC-funded projects collaborating with EGEE. These sessions cover a significant portion of the programme. For both the technical sessions and demonstrations the programme is near-final and, to help you plan your week at the conference, can be found online:
http://indico.cern.ch/conferenceTimeTable.py?confId=55893.

Conference registration is open until 14 September, after which onsite registration fees will apply. So far over 400 persons have registered—we are expecting more to register so register soon so book your hotel rooms to secure space near the venue in the conference hotels. You may be interested to know of planned training sessions for the weekend preceding the conference. Saturday and Sunday, 19-20 September there is an Introduction to gLite and RESPECT tools training. The focus of the course is primarily expected to be a brief introduction to gLite job management followed by tutorials on tools from the EGEE RESPECT program. More information on the training can be found here: http://indico.cern.ch/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=59091.

On Sunday, 20 September there will also be a tutorial on Extending EGEE VOs with Desktop Grids and porting applications for the extended infrastructure. The goal of this tutorial is to train the EGEE user community how to extend their VOs with desktop grids, how such an integrated infrastructure works, and how to port and run their applications on this infrastructure. Full details on the this tutorial can be found here: http://indico.cern.ch/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=65595.

At the time of writing some exhibition space is available... but the limited space is quickly filling up – so book soon!

As you prepare your demonstrations for the conference, keep in mind that, as added incentive for excellent work, we'll be showing the best demo movies in the EGEE booth and online from the conference website.

I wish you the best of relaxing, remaining holidays (don't get too sunburned).

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
September	31 August-4 September, GridKa School, Karlsruhe, Germany	www.fzk.de/gks09
	07, XXII International Symposium on Nuclear Electronics & Computing, Varna, Bulgaria	nec2009.jinr.ru
	10-11, Biomedical Informatics Without Borders: From Collaboration To Implementation, Wellcome Trust, London, UK	cancerinformatics.org.uk/nci-ncri2009conference
	21-25, EGEE'09, Barcelona, Spain	egee09.eu-egee.org
October	26-28, 5th International Workshop on Grid Computing for Complex Problems, Bratislava, Slovakia	conference.ui.sav.sk/gccp2009

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