

Dear EGEE-III project members,

Yesterday, 9 July, was the close of **EGEE-II's final review**, held over two days at CERN.

**"Outstanding."** This was John Martin's description yesterday, speaking on behalf of the European Commission's appointed review committee, of the EGEE-II project. In his assessment he warmly commended the project and said there would be fewer recommendations than in previous reviews.

He thanked the presenters for the high standard of preparation and clarity in their talks, saying that all reviewers were particularly impressed by the openness, transparency and responsiveness shown. He said the reviewers appreciated that previous review recommendations had been addressed and that the reports on major activities included a section of "lessons learned." (For full session notes see pages 2-4.) We expect to receive the written report from the review by September.

Many thanks to all those individuals who will be leaving EGEE at this point; we wish them every success in their new challenges. In addition, I would like to thank the External Advisory Committee, in particular Eike Jessen and Rolf Kubli who acted as reviewers during last week's dress rehearsals.

In administrative notes, you'll be glad to know that all final **paperwork for EGEE-III** is signed and delivered, and we expect the effort monitoring and financial reporting **PPT tool** to be ready at the end of the month.

The **call for bids to host the EGEE'09** conference is now open, and all details of how to prepare and submit bids are included in the EGEE'09 Bidders' pack on <https://edms.cern.ch/document/936392/1>. Letters of intent should be submitted to the Project Office by 31 July 2008 and full bids by 14 September 2008.

Early bird **registration for EGEE'08** has been extended to 17 July. Please remember to sign up before you leave for your well deserved summer holidays. Enjoy!

Yours sincerely,



Bob Jones  
EGEE-III Project Director

## EGEE-II review closing session notes

Mitjana opened the session, calling on rapporteur John Martin to provide the feedback from the reviewers.

John Martin took the floor. He first asked to thank a number of people, notably the Project Office for the arrangements for the reviewers, CERN for hosting the review, the members of the project for the very high standard of preparation of the material and for the quality of the presentations. This is particularly important as this is a large scale, complex project, and the quality of the material helps guide the reviewers through it.

All the reviewers agree that they are particularly pleased with the openness, transparency and responsiveness shown to the reviewers.

Martin noted the reviewers' appreciation of the fact that the previous review recommendations were usefully provided in one place with corresponding follow up, as well as the inclusion of a section on lessons learned in the reports by major activities, all of high quality. This is something they will recommend other projects do in other reviews and the reviewers will recommend the EC implement this generally.

Martin noted that the intention for the report is for it to be surprise free, but some things may arise in the report preparation.

This is a very well organised project, in terms of overall management and individual activities. This is to the credit of everyone, as when hearing each talk, one forgets how complex the project is. This is testament to the high quality and fluidity of the project.

Particular progress is noted on the work on application support. This is very impressive. The degree to which the project has been able to contact and understand the needs of the user community is remarkable.

Further the project has been quite bold in taking particular decisions, which can be high risk, such as the gLite restructuring and use of ETICS. All this is vindicated by the outcome.

The QA has been continually refined. Reviewers are particularly impressed by standards in the area.

Improved interoperability, which was a concern 12 months ago.

They note a steady rise in reliability helped by use of monitoring tools.

12 months ago a concern was in area of personnel and management, staff turnover and retention. Actions taken have been extremely good and it appears as less of a concern now.

The contribution to EGI, which is the future of grids in Europe, is exceedingly important. It is obvious the contributions of the project have been significant in past 12 months.

The reviewers note the increased participation in Grid standardisation effort.

On dissemination, training work with Related Projects, international cooperation: there were no concerns 12 months ago, and they continue to be models of their kind.

And finally, the project has consistently met and exceeded its targets.

Comments on some issues arising. There are fewer than a year ago and that reflects the fact that recommendations made at the time are now redundant.

- Still an issue over job failure rates.
- Also on updating of middleware throughout the sites connected, need for timely updates. This might cause problems with user support and requirements.
- Patch delays are also an issue. It has been noted as difficult for the patches to be processed and this is an obvious throughput limitation. There are schemes in place to prioritize but the delays are still there.
- Limitations in interoperability still present, but considerable successes are recognized, with UNICORE notably. Noted the experiences with other systems, and that it is essential to have a dedicated user community to make things happen. Recommend contact of the Fusion community which may lead to a potential candidate.
- Issues with IPR identified: The comments on patenting the drugs coming out of the program raises questions on how this should be handled.
- Finally, the obvious tension between non-commercial and commercial users of the infrastructure is a potential issue.

A few words about the forthcoming recommendations:

There will be fewer this time, reflecting continual refinement of the project.

- Acceptance of all deliverables
- Recognize that is the final review of the project. The intention is of course to give detailed feedback. The probable format will be similar to collecting the lessons learned from each activity. They will certainly indicate those agreed with, disagree with and any they feel are missing.
- New activities encouraged to continue:
  - a. The contacts with ESFRI and with the ERC. These are clearly potential new sources of user communities.
  - b. Encourage contacts with Fusion community.
  - c. "Cloud watching" is also recommended. There are potential benefits for low threshold users, i.e. people to whom the cost of starting with grids is a deterrent. This applies to researchers and business communities.

Final remarks: Keep up the good work and the reviewers wish the project every success for the future.

Jones concluded by thanking the reviewers for the favourable assessment of the project, thanking them for their feedback from the first review which has been so useful in continuous improvement in the project.

Jones thanked all project members for making the project a success.

Martin added that it was very good to hear and see new activity leaders.

Mitjana took the floor, thanking the reviewers for their hard work in reviewing such a complex and large scale project.

He joined them in thanking the Consortium and the management in such good preparations for the review. He is glad to see that performance does not drop in quality over time. He explicitly thanked the Project Office and the presenters who took part in this review.

Concerning the project in general, by all means and standards this has been an outstanding collaboration in the past two years. It is impressive from the funding agency perspective.

There is no doubt that the e-infrastructures programme would not be what it is without EGEE-II: the benefits of what is done are not concealed within the programme, it goes well beyond other projects and this is clearly visible and commendable.

The challenges are now ahead. EGEE-III is now signed and in place. The challenges are a little different in nature from those faced in EGEE and EGEE-II and it is hoped the good performance will continue there.

He thanked all 1400 or more members of EGEE-II.

Von Rueden closed the meeting with thanks to the reviewers, confirming that all efforts will be followed in the future. He noted that one of the reasons for the success of EGEE is the community behind the work which has strict deadlines. The Grid is not an option, it is a must. He thanked the EC for continued support, the reviewers and agreed the challenges lie ahead.

**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	URL
August	25-28, <a href="#">CoreGRID Symposium</a> , Canary Island, Spain	<a href="http://www.coregrid.net/mambo/content/view/578/378/">http://www.coregrid.net/mambo/content/view/578/378/</a>
	25-September 5, <a href="#">CERN School of Computing 2008</a> , Gjøvik, Norway	<a href="https://csc.web.cern.ch/csc/Default.asp">https://csc.web.cern.ch/csc/Default.asp</a>
September	6-18, International Summer School on Grid Computing, Hungary	<a href="http://www.iceage-eu.org/issgc08/index.cfm">http://www.iceage-eu.org/issgc08/index.cfm</a>
	8-12, <a href="#">International GridKa School</a> , Karlsruhe, Germany	<a href="http://www.fzk.de/gks08">http://www.fzk.de/gks08</a>
	15-19, <a href="#">24th Open Grid Forum</a> , Singapore, Singapore	<a href="http://www.ogf.org/OGF24/">http://www.ogf.org/OGF24/</a>
	22-26, <a href="#">EGEE'08 Conference</a> , Istanbul, Turkey	<a href="http://egee08.eu-egee.org/">http://egee08.eu-egee.org/</a>