

Geneva, Monday 18 May 2009

GridCafé (www.gridcafe.org), an award-winning website aimed at introducing the marvels of grid computing to a wider audience, has this week launched a Spanish language version, making the website available to an estimated 300 million Spanish speakers around the world.

The expansion comes as part of a partnership between European Commission project GridTalk (www.gridtalk-project.eu) and REUNA (www.reuna.cl), a non-profit collaboration of 15 Chilean universities, the AURA Observatory and the Chilean National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research.

"In REUNA we believe that by using innovative technologies we can help to make a better world. When we first saw GridCafé we fell in love with its great contents and the simple fashion in which they are explained; we felt we needed to share that with the Chilean education and research community, and also with the rest of Latin America," said Paola Arellano, REUNA Executive Director. "We are extremely satisfied with the great result of our collaboration with GridTalk and we are sure that the Spanish version of GridCafé will serve to trigger the development of new eScience initiatives."

One of the eScience initiatives that will benefit is the world's largest multi-science grid project Enabling Grids for E-science (EGEE). EGEE have been working closely with EELA (E-infrastructure shared between Europe and Latin America) to increase the number of scientists within southern and central America using grid technology. This new translation of GridCafé into Spanish will help to increase grid awareness among the research community in Latin America.

The GridCafé website received nearly 300,000 visitors in the last year, viewing more than 600,000 pages. The site introduces the concepts behind grid computing - a technology that connects ordinary computers from around the world to create an extraordinary computing resource - as well as grid applications, challenges and ways to get involved.

"Grid computing is an essential and fascinating technology," said Dr Sarah Pearce, GridTalk project manager. "It allows scientists from all over the world to work together, sharing their data and resources for the greater good. We're thrilled that GridCafé can now reach an even wider audience."

Grid computing is the IT technology enabling worldwide scientific projects, such as the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, and powering global efforts to combat climate change, discover new medicines and map the skies.

Notes for Editors

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About REUNA

REUNA (www.reuna.cl) is a non-profit collaboration of 15 Chilean universities, the AURA Observatory and the Chilean National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research, which since 1992 has managed to have the only Advanced Network technological infrastructure of academic nature, devoted to research and development in Chile. REUNA is worldwide connected by means of the RedCLARA network (created by the ALICE project, co-funded by the EC @LIS Programme).

About GridTalk

The GridTalk project coordinates a number of communication efforts aimed at promoting grid computing and e-science. GridTalk websites include GridCafé (www.gridcafe.org), as well as:

GridGuide www.gridguide.org and GridCast www.gridcast.org

The GridGuide and GridCast websites share the sites and sights of grid computing, aiming to show the human face of grid computing by taking people “behind the scenes” of events and institutions involved in global e-science.

International Science Grid This Week: www.isgtw.org

International Science Grid This Week is a successful electronic newsletter with more than four thousand subscribers in one hundred countries. iSGTW is a joint project between Open Science Grid in the U.S. and GridTalk in Europe.

GridBriefings: www.gridtalk.org/briefings.htm

GridBriefings are jargon-free articles that provide timely summaries of policy-oriented issues in grid computing. The briefings target non-technical policymakers in government and industry, as well as scientists and the public.

About EGEE

The EGEE-III (Enabling Grids for E-scienceE) project provides a production quality grid infrastructure for a myriad of applications from various scientific domains, including earth sciences, high energy physics, bioinformatics and astrophysics. The project brings together scientists and engineers from more than 300 institutions in over 50 countries providing around 80K CPUs and 5 PB disk storage.

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