



GridPP
UK Computing for Particle Physics

GridPP Project Management Board

EG/NGI Status

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EGI

A formal EGI now exists. Almost 30 NGIs signed a letter of intent and >20 signed the MoU. Invoices have been issued for the initial membership fees.. The Council has met twice with non-signing NGIs attending as observers without voting rights. EIROForum members are eligible to join with voting rights applicable to the membership fee they choose; CERN and EMBL have already joined.

Amsterdam was chosen in March as the venue for the EGI Headquarters by the EGI Policy Board and work is underway to set up the legal framework in the Netherlands. Steven Newhouse, Technical Director of EGEE has been appointed as Interim Director of EGI and he is leading the team preparing proposals for funding. An Organisation Task Force has been set up to push forward the creation of the organisation and a Steering Committee of EGI formed which is a subset of the Council ensuring regional representation. Neil Geddes is a member.

At the first meeting of the Council the structure, ToR etc were agreed. It will meet again during EGEE09 in Barcelona, late September.

A 'bidding document' has been sent out to all NGIs including observers. It asks for

- Expressions of Interest to carry out each of the Global Tasks defined in the EGI-DS Blueprint. Asks for some justification of experience and a roadmap for the task.
- Information on how much effort is anticipated to be required to carry out the 'international tasks' from the Blueprint. This information will be used to scale this part of the project.

EC Funding

A small editorial board of about 8, including John Gordon, was set up to coordinate a number of proposals in response to the e-Infrastructures call http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/e-infrastructure/events-20090618_en.html . Closing date 24 November

Proposals are being prepared for:-

INFRA-2010-1.2.1.1

The Core EGI proposal involving the central organisation EGI.eu and the participating NGIs A first draft is under review and a second is planned before the Council meets during EGEE09 (wb 21 September)

INFRA-2010-1.2.1.2 - Services for Heavy users

A late addition to the call specifically to make sure non-generic services for LHC are included and funded. Heavy users so far include particle physics and biomed. Current plan is that this will be included in the EGI proposal but is being shaped strongly by the requirements of the user communities. There is a risk that particle physics tries to duplicate generic services for themselves and not just add-on services like FTS and LFC.

INFRA-2010-1.2.3 — Virtual Research Communities

The response to this call is to group the vertical organization of the EGI user community into Specialized Support Centers (SSCs).

It was hoped that there might be a single proposal gathering all the scientific communities together but there are currently three groupings

ROSCOE: Robust Scientific Communities for EGI: including HEP, Life Science (LS), Computational Chemistry and Material Science (CCMST), Complex Systems (CS), GO. Possibly: Photon Science, Humanities

CUE: Creating Users of E-infrastructures: Training, Dissemination, Business Outreach

AA/ES/F: Astronomy, Astrophysics, Earth Science, Fusion

In addition there will also be a bid called **Application Porting Support** against the Simulation Software & Services Call INFRA-2010-1.2.2.

There will be separate proposals from each and probably many more but EGI has defined a procedure and conditions for which ones it will give letters of support to.

The UK NGI

The UK NGI will be based on the NGS. JISC are supportive of this and they signed the MoU. They are not a legal entity though so we may have another hurdle to participating in an EC project.

The NGI organisation has started from the JRU which acts for UK partners in EGEE. Additional representation from JISC and GridPP has been added. This group has met several times.

There is currently an issue with NGS leading the NGI but GridPP sites being more closely integrated into EGEE. A group of NGS and GridPP people have been working on a programme of integration which is making steady but slow progress. Several GridPP sites are already certified NGS partners but not all NGS sites can accept work from other EGEE partners yet.

The UK NGI responded to the bidding document with bids for:- accounting, configuration repository (GOCDB), leadership of security policy work, security operations, dissemination coordination, and training coordination.

We have already been awarded the configuration repository (GOCDB), and leadership of security policy work. The others will be reviewed by boards drawn from other NGIs. It is not yet clear how much effort each NGI will get from the core EGI project or the procedure by which this will be determined. Expectations are that it will be less than in EGEE III. Some fraction

The UK expects to get funding for 0.5FTE (50% of 1 FTE) to support FTS and LFC at the RAL Tier1. We have also expressed an interest in participating in the HEP part of the ROSCOE SSC (Specialist Support Centre) to support Ganga.

gLite and EMI

An informal group (The gLite Consortium) has formed to take ownership of the gLite middleware post-EGEE. A draft MoU exists, on target to be signed by the end of October to put some formality behind the group but it stops short of becoming a legal entity. RAL signed an expression of interest to participate for R-GMA and APEL (accounting).

A looser group of three middleware providers: gLite, Unicore, and ARC(NorduGrid) will collaborate in a single project called EMI (European Middleware Initiative) to call INFRA-2010-3.3 to develop and support middleware for EGI.

APEL should be included in this proposal although there is currently no support for R-GMA. The project is interested in the GridSite software from Manchester so there is an opportunity there.

Outlook

The chance of a credible EGI proposal being submitted with a critical mass of NGIs is medium to high. The chances of it being enough for WLCG to run smoothly are lower but helped by the special call on services for heavy users.

The chances of an acceptable middleware proposal are medium but the EGI proposal contains a fallback plan for in-house development of key components.

The chances of a Specialist Support Centre funding particle physics work to the benefit of WLCG are high.

A UK NGI led by NGS should be able to participate in this EGI and receive funds from the EC so to do (high probability). If the NGS sites are not well integrated then our fallback is participation by existing GridPP sites only. Although the UK should participate in all projects we will have a much lower presence than Italy and Germany who have gone in with much firmer national support.

GridPP's current position is to steer a middle course on EGI. It is not GridPP's core business to run an e-Science Infrastructure for the UK but a successful EGI is so important to LHC computing that GridPP needs to be closely involved in the UK NGI in order to influence and ensure that the service meets our needs. The above plans should achieve this with GridPP performing some key tasks and working closely with NGS in the management of the NGI to ensure that others achieve the standards required for LHC (and wider particle physics) computing.