

NEWS FROM TERENA (144)

EGEE project officially launched



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Today, the start was announced of the EGEE (Enabling Grids for E-science in Europe) project, one of the flagship projects in the European Union's Sixth Framework Programme. The aim of the EGEE project is to build on the recent advances in Grid technology and develop a Grid infrastructure across Europe that will be available 24 hours per day. The project will concentrate on three core areas. The first is to build a consistent, robust and secure Grid network. The second area of work aims to continuously improve and maintain the necessary middleware in order to deliver a reliable service to users. The third set of activities is aimed to attract new users from industry as well as the scientific community, and to ensure that they receive the high standard of training and support that they need.

Two pilot areas have been selected to guide the implementation and certify the performance and functionality of the evolving infrastructure. One is the Large Hadron Collider Computing Grid and the other is Biomedical Grids, where several communities are facing equally daunting challenges to cope with the flood of bio-informatics and healthcare data.

The EGEE is an Integrated Infrastructure Initiative of unprecedented size and complexity. The project, led by the European Organisation for Nuclear Research CERN, has more than 70 participants, covering a wide range of scientific and industrial applications. The total budget for the two-year project is almost 29 million euro, of which almost 20 million euro will be contributed by the European Union. EGEE is a two-year project conceived as part of a four-year programme, where the results of the first two years will provide the basis for assessing subsequent objectives and funding needs.

TERENA's role in the EGEE project is in information dissemination activities, including the maintenance of the EGEE website and the production of informational materials, in collaboration with the central EGEE office at CERN.

More information about EGEE is available from the project's public website at

<http://public.eu-egee.org/>