INTERCOLLEGE: A NEW RESOURCE CENTRE JOINS CYGRID

In March 2007, Intercollege joined the Cyprus Grid infrastructure, becoming a new Grid Resource Centre. Intercollege set up its own Grid cluster, thereby helping to enhance the existing infrastructure in Cyprus. The new Cyprus Grid Node CY-03-INTERCOLLEGE is the third node established as part of the CyGrid infrastructure of the EGEE II project. CY-03-INTERCOLLEGE currently consists of 1 Grid Gate node, 1 User Interface and Monitoring node, and 10 Worker Nodes, and it is connected to the European research and education network (GÉANT).

The EGEE II (Enabling Grids for E-sciencE) project brings together scientists and engineers from more than 90 institutions in 32 countries world-wide, to provide a seamless Grid infrastructure for e-Science that is available to scientists 24 hours-a-day. EGEE II is funded by the European Commission.

Expanding from originally two scientific fields, high energy physics and life sciences, EGEE now integrates applications from many other scientific fields, ranging from geology to computational chemistry. Generally, the EGEE Grid infrastructure is ideal for any scientific research especially where the time and resources needed for running the applications are considered impractical when using traditional IT infrastructures.

The EGEE Grid consists of over 20,000 CPU available to users 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in addition to about 5 Petabytes (5 million Gigabytes) of storage, and maintains 20,000 concurrent jobs on average. Having such resources available changes the way scientific research takes place. The end use depends on the users' needs: large storage capacity, the bandwidth that the infrastructure provides, or the sheer computing power available.

In Cyprus, CyGrid is a National Grid Infrastructure initiated in 2001 by the High Performance Computing systems Laboratory, Computer Science Department of the University of Cyprus.

This effort has aimed to provide Grid services at a national scale. Its motivation has been the collaboration of Cypriot research groups and institutions which have expressed an interest to interlink an impressive range of computing, networking and storage resources, and make them available to the European Grid infrastructure.

Once the potential benefits of the Grids are realised, academic/industrial researchers can experience the benefits from deploying their applications on the CyGrid testbed and beyond. Where possible, new Resource Centers will be also established.

To assist in the enhancement of the local infrastructure and enable researchers to safely use the Grid, CyGrid has established the CyGridCA (Cyprus Grid Certification Authority). CyGridCA is

independent of any single organization and provides X.509 certificates to individuals for identification and authentication purposes before they engage on Grid-related activities.

An EGEE User & SysAdmin Training Event will be taking place at Intercollege during the 23rd and 24th of April at Lab B111.

For details on the event, please see: http://www.egee.nesc.ac.uk/
To register please visit http://grid.ucy.ac.cy/egee/na3/registration.php

Note to Editors:

1. For more information about the Enabling Grids for E-sciencE (EGEE) project please see http://www.eu-egee.org/ or contact Hannelore Hammerle (CERN), EGEE External Relations Officer, telephone: +41 22 767 4176 or email: hannelore.hammerle@cern.ch
2. For more information about CyGrid (Cyprus National Grid Infrastructure), please visit: http://cygrid.org.cy/
3. For more information on the High Performance Computing system Laboratory please see http://grid.ucy.ac.cy/
4. For more information on Intercollege, please see http://www.intercollege.ac.cy/
5. For more information on the University of Cyprus, please see http://www.ucy.ac.cy/