

Towards long-term sustainability for European Grid infrastructures: an exchange of views between France, Spain, Portugal, CERN and the EU.

March 28th, 2006. Sala de Junes, Rectorat, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Purpose and objectives:

- To exchange information the current status of national Grid initiatives across Europe
- To gather input from policymakers and researchers on their desiderata and requirements for a supranational Grid computing infrastructure
- To present the need for a European Grid infrastructure to national representatives of government, science, technology and computing
- To present preliminary ideas on how such an infrastructure might be organized, including the roles which national Grid initiatives would play
- To receive feedback to improve Grid infrastructure proposals

Agenda

Session A: Chairperson: Prof. Juan Antonio Rubio, Director General of CIEMAT, Ministry of Education and Science, Spain		
14:30-14:35	Welcome and Introduction	
14:35-15:00	Summary of Grid initiatives in France	A. Lichnewsky
15:00-15:25	Summary of Grid initiatives in Portugal	G. Barreira
15:25-15:50	Summary of Grid initiatives in Spain	M. Delfino
15:50-16:15	Questions and discussion	J.A. Rubio, moderator
Coffee Break		
Session B: Chairperson: Prof. Gaspar Barreira, on behalf of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Universities, Portugal		
16:45-17:15	State of European Grids and the need for a sustainable European Grid Infrastructure	K. Baxevanidis
17:15-17:45	Organizational ideas for a sustainable future European Grid Infrastructure	R. Jones
17:45-18:45	Discussion: - European Grid Infrastructure concept - How National initiatives fit into the model - Sharing of responsibilities - Funding models - Roadmap - etc.	M. Delfino, moderator
18:45-19:00	Wrap-up, reflecting feedback expressed by national representatives	G. Wormser
19:00 END OF MEETING (Transport to airport and train stations as needed)		

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Background

Grid computing allows individuals to access resources held on widely distributed computers as easily as if they were on the user's own desktop. These resources include digital libraries and databases, massive computing power for large calculations and facilities for collaboration between researchers in distant locations. In the past year alone, Grid computing has accelerated research into treatments for Malaria, analysed Indonesian earthquakes to help plan humanitarian responses, and supported the construction of the world's biggest scientific instrument.

At present, the infrastructure for Grid computing in Europe has been largely developed by a series of short-term projects funded by the European Commission. These short-term funding cycles have encouraged rapid development but the lack of a long-term facility inhibits investment from major user groups and industry. In order to exploit fully the benefits that Grid computing can offer to science and industry, we are seeking to put in place a structure to ensure the continued and sustainable availability of grid computing facilities in Europe. This is most likely to involve a linking up of Grid initiatives operating at a national level, and we are therefore seeking to consult with national representatives in these early planning stages at a series of workshops to be held across Europe.

NB: Detailed instructions on how to get to the Rectorat Building at UAB will be sent separately. Please contact Stephanie Buchholz at PIC for any additional assistance needed (email address Stephanie.Buchholz@pic.es).