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The National Grid initiative of the Spanish network for e-Science

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Describe the activity, tool or service using or enhancing the EGEE infrastructure or results. A high-level description is needed here (Neither a detailed specialist report nor a list of references is required).

The Spanish Network for e-Science is formed by almost 700 researchers from 68 groups in more than 40 Spanish institutions. The network has four main activity areas: Grid Infrastructures, Supercomputing Infrastructures, Middleware and Applications. The Spanish NGI is one of the main mandates of the Network and comprises the principal Spanish research institutions that participate actively in the development and support of a Spanish Grid Infrastructure through different Grid research projects.

Report on the impact of the activity, tool or service. This should include a description of how grid technology enabled or enhanced the result, or how you have enabled or enhanced the infrastructure for other users.

The network aims at consolidating scientific communities and applications involved in e-Science, as well as fostering its adoption by new ones, with the objective of reinforcing the international presence of Spanish researchers, as well as their scientific production. For this purpose, one of the main mandates is the creation of a Spanish National Grid Infrastructure with production quality. Furthermore, the network proposes setting-up mechanisms for the coordination among Spanish resource providers in both Grid and Supercomputing, by the development of new middleware components focused on the interoperability problems. Finally, the network is investing an important effort on defining the basis for the development of a sustainable exploitation model to ensure the long-term availability of the infrastructure.

The Spanish NGI currently integrates 18 resource provider centres, 2400 cores and provides support for more than 340 direct users from different scientific fields.

Describe the added value of the grid for your activity, or the value your tool or service adds for other grid users. This should include the scale of the activity and of the potential user community, and the relevance for other scientific or business applications.

The Spanish NGI participates in EU projects, such as EGEE and EELA, through JRU's (led by the IFAE in EGEE and by the CIEMAT in EELA) and serves as a coherent umbrella to the whole Spanish Grid Community.

The Spanish NGI works in close cooperation with the Portuguese NGI through the IBERGRID agreement. This joint commission organizes the yearly conference IBERGRID (www.ibergrid.eu/2008/index.html) and two six-monthly coordination meetings, which aim to promote the deployment of common research infrastructure, the coordination of the National Research and Education Networks, joint participation in projects and exchange of research interests.

The Spanish NGI has also close relations with the Spanish Supercomputing Network. This network comprises several Spanish research centres that operate a common supercomputing infrastructure. The links between Supercomputing and Grid pose one of the most important challenges for the Spanish Network for e-Science.

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