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The Pre-Production Service in WLCG/EGEE

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The WLCG/EGEE Pre-Production Service (PPS) is a grid infrastructure whose goal is to give early access to new services to WLCG/EGEE users in order to evaluate new features and changes in the middleware before new versions are actually deployed in PPS.

The PPS grid counts about 30 sites providing resources and manpower.

The service contributes to the overall quality of the grid middleware by:

- making new middleware functionalities early available to the VOs in order to tune their applications
- allowing Evaluation of software and deployment procedures in real operational conditions
- providing feedback for early bug fix to be done on the release before it is moved to production.

Finally, as the PPS is well integrated in the framework of the operational procedures in place for production, it results to be also a good context where to practice new procedures and monitoring tools.

The Pre-Production Service has been now running for nearly two years in the WLCG/EGEE context.

We give in this paper an overview on the current mandate and status of the service, their past evolutions and the future plans.

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