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## **LHC Grid Fest**

**«From "grids for the LHC" to "service platforms for science"»**

*Check Against Delivery  
Seul le texte prononcé fait foi  
Es gilt das gesprochene Wort*

## ***[Introduction]***

Ladies and Gentlemen,

let me start by congratulating CERN for the successful "LHC First Beam" on September 10. On that date, together with my colleagues at the European Commission, I had the opportunity to follow live the first beam going around the LHC in a large screen set up to this avail. It was impressive; I felt myself the thrill of the operators and visitors in the crowded LHC control room as the beam progressed through the octants!

It was a great day for high energy physics as this facility of the superlatives went into operation. But certainly not only for high energy physics. I am confident that many other scientific disciplines and society at large will benefit from the LHC. Among others, through the Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) developed initially for the LHC.

As a matter of fact, certain ICTs are unalienable from the LHC facility. The four LHC detectors require e-Infrastructures, grids in particular, so that the data they produce can be transformed in knowledge by scientists all over the world. And only thanks to

e-Infrastructures is CERN able to fully involve its stakeholders in the LHC experiments.

***[From "grids for the LHC" to "service platforms for science"]***

Since 1999 the European Commission has invested over 100 M€ in grid-based e-Infrastructures directly related to the LHC. I am sure that acronyms like DataGrid, EGEE and EGEE-II bring to mind good memories to a few persons in this audience. EGEE-III and several collaborating projects build on the heritage of these predecessors that were driven by the needs of the demanding high energy physics community under the visionary leadership of CERN. The European Commission is proud of the achievements of these projects in supporting the LHC endeavour and in shaping decisively European e-Infrastructures.

Indeed, what started with high energy physics as a first mover has become today's EGEE e-Infrastructure, the world's largest multi-science grid. With its international footprint and support for a continuously growing number of scientific disciplines, EGEE is actively contributing to the building of Global Virtual Research Communities. And thus changing, for ever, the way science is done.

The time is ripe for Europe to shift up a gear. I am referring here to the importance of establishing a sustainable model for the funding and operation of e-Science grids in the context of the European Research Area. This sustainable model is currently emerging and is known under the name of European Grid Infrastructure (EGI). I want to encourage you all to contribute in developing this model leaving aside differences for the sake of entering swiftly a new era of discovery and innovation underpinned by ICT-based facilities.

The European approach to master and reap the benefits of this new era of data-centric science is articulated around five vectors:

- GÉANT - supporting the interconnection of all research centers and universities
- e-Science grids - promoting the remote access and the sharing of scientific instruments and computer resources
- Scientific data - promoting easy access to multidisciplinary repositories of scientific information
- Novel infrastructures - currently focussed on the construction of an ecosystem of Petascale supercomputers

- Global Virtual Research Communities - empowering scientific communities to explore the potential of e-Infrastructure to innovate the scientific process

I am convinced that the set up of the European Grid Infrastructure is a crucial step to master e-Science by successfully evolving the pioneer "grids for the LHC" to become proficient "service platforms for science" able to host a plethora of vibrant Global Virtual Research Communities.

***[Closing]***

I would like to close by thanking each and every one of the members of the distributed team that has made EGEE a world-class e-Infrastructure. And by asking all of you to have the courage and the foresight needed to move towards a sustainable European Grid Infrastructure as I just described. Be reassured, the European Commission will support you in this undertaking.

My best wishes for the LHC scientific endeavours and I am looking forward to many more beneficial spill-overs to society beyond e-Science grids.

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