

## openlab-II: where are we, where are we going?

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The openlab, created three years ago at CERN, was a novel concept: to involve leading IT companies in the evaluation and the integration of cutting-edge technologies or services, focusing on potential solutions for the LCG. The novelty lay in the duration of the commitment (three years during which companies provided a mix of in-kind and in-cash contributions), the level of the contributions and more importantly the collaborative nature of the common undertaking which materialized in the construction of the opencluster. This phase, now called openlab-I, to which five major companies (Enterasys, HP, IBM, Intel and Oracle) contributed, is to be completed at the end of 2005, and a new phase, the openlab-II, is starting in 2006. This new three year period maintains the administrative framework of openlab-I (sufficient duration and level of contribution to permit the pursuit of ambitious goals) and will focus more on grid software, services and standardization. openlab-II comprises two related projects: PCC (the Platform Competence Centre Project) and GIC (the Grid Interoperability Centre Project). These activities can be characterized by a transversal theme: the application of virtualization to grids. The presentation will briefly draw lessons from openlab-I as a collaborative framework for R&D and will summarize the technical achievements. It will then describe the openlab-II projects, their goals, differences and commonalities, and will explain how they could contribute to the formalization of the "Virtualization for Grids" concept.

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