Summary of the EGEE All Activity Meeting – 18th of June 2004

This document has been prepared by Marc-Elian Bégin

The following is a summary of the different presentations given during the last EGEE All Activity meeting held at CERN on the 18th of June 2004 (http://agenda.cern.ch/fullAgenda.php?ida=a042415). About 70 people attended the event.

Common Themes

A number of *common themes* emerged that involve several activities and are important to the success of the project.

Management of Requirements
We are now converging on a common tool for the management and tracking of requirements across all activities (http://egee-na4.ct.infn.it/requirements/). The Generic and Bio-Medical requirements have already been ported to the tool. Since requirements will evolve during the lifetime of EGEE, it is important that we bring all the requirements for all application types (i.e. HEP, BioMeb and Generic) under a same roof. This issue concerns NA4, SA1 and JRA1-4 and is being discussed within the PTF (see below).

Testing Strategy
The coordination of many testing activities is being coordinated in order to address the following issues:
- Avoid too much overlap, gaps and ensure we focus on priorities, since we cannot test every aspects
- Adopt common tools and frameworks, such that testing is harmonised across the activities and tests can be reused across the spectrum of activities
- Ensure mechanism where simulation/reprocessing (i.e. batch jobs) using gLite can be tested with the experiments as well as analysis (ARDA)

Middleware Migration
The migration between LCG-2 and gLite must avoid "big bang deployment" by evolving existing service to the new ones in a smooth and gradual deployment strategy. An important aspect of this migration is to ensure that LCG-2 managed data (already deployed on LCG-2) is preserved and kept transparent for current users and future users of gLite. A close coordination must take place to ensure that the middleware release plan (JRA1), the grid deployment strategy (SA1) and the pilot applications (NA4) are well synchronised.

Training
Training requires that the links between NA2, NA4 and SA1 are maintained to ensure constant supply of participants.

These themes need to be addressed quickly and agreed at the PEB level.

NA1

The structure of the project grouped by Federation is working well in terms of management and administration. Following from that, the prepayment process has started. Monthly reporting is taking shape and providing useful information back to the Project Office (i.e. NA1/PO).

The NA1 Execution Plan is being updated (http://edms.cern.ch/document/456033). Marc-Elian Bégin is now working part-time on technical coordination. He is also part of the dissemination team (NA2).

The PPT tool will not be used to support the handling of timesheets for the first quarterly report. However, the timesheets are being collected, as well as WBS, project participants and workflows are being finalised.

The project month 3 (PM3) deliverables for NA1 are the following:
- DNA1.1.1 – Quarterly report
- DNA1.2 - Gender Action Plan

The GAP is currently being finalised and can be found in EDMS in draft version. The start of the review is planned to start at the end of June.

The date for the first EU review is now fixed for the **9th to the 11th of February 2005**. All PEB and PMB members should attend as well as a representative for each partner. In order to be ready in time for this important review, all PM9 deliverables **must** be completed (reviewed) before Christmas. We should all consider these deliverables as PM8 deliverables.

NA5

The NA5 white paper deliverable will evolve in its next version to address authorisation and accounting issues (http://www.einfrastructures.org/). The next version will be ready for early November (to coincide with the eIRG meeting in Netherlands). NA5 deliverables are currently not aligned with eIRG meetings.

On the staffing front, a number of candidates have declined the offer made by CERN for the NA5 post. This is an urgent point to address. Anybody knowing a suitable candidate is kindly requested to contact the PO.

NA2

The PM3 deliverables for NA2 are the following:
- DNA2.1 (project info) – delivered
- DNA2.2.1 (external website) – delivered
- DNA2.3.1 (internal website) – delivered
- DNA2.4.1 dissemination strategy – ready for review next week

The Execution Plan is available on EDMS (https://edms.cern.ch/document/468620). The document gives details on the following:
- 80 individuals from 21 institutes
- WBS

- Partner descriptions/responsibilities

The 2nd EGEE conference will be held from the **22nd to the 26th of November 2004 in The Hague (Netherlands)**. The main goal of the conference will be to prepare the 1st EU review. The conference will also happen in conjunction with other grid related projects such as DESIA, DILIGENT, SEE-GRID and perhaps GEANT.   An organization meeting will take place on the 5th of July in The Hague. Fotis suggested to include representative from GRNET for 3rd project conference. A programme committee will be setup shortly after the on-site visit of the 5th of July.

The NA2 team has developed several products (e.g. websites & brochures). The team is also now completing the branding of EGEE. Once this branding is in place, we should be able to harmonise and provide a more consistent look and feel for future produced project media and communication material.

EGEE will be present at the IST2004 conference and will organise a common stand with other grid and EU related projects.

In terms of risks, the highest on the list for NA2 is not to get a good communication with the other NA2 partners.

For the Websites, NA2 suggested a coherent approach with entry, public, technical, industry and training. The proposal is interesting and needs to be further discussed. However, a contribution is needed for the external website from all the other activities.

NA3

Since the beginning of the project, NA3 has organised and delivered 7 courses and presentations. Five more events are planned through July.

The strategy for training is to move towards more but smaller events based on feedback received from previous events. The NA3 team is gaining experience with the GENIUS portal and GILDA testbed. And the NA3 internal website is showing good progress

The PM3 (and PM4/5) deliverables and milestones for NA3 are the following:
- DNA3.1.1: (PM3) Training Plan – end of June
- MNA3.1: Training and induction planning phase complete

As for the near future, NA3 will consult other activities to ensure that "programming" courses are inline with the needs of the project.

The NA3 NeSC team is now complete.

The main risk for this activity is an uneven spread of NA3 partners. For example, there are no partners in France nor in Iberia.

NA4

The first Bio-Medical applications have been deployed on the grid and it is expected that the first job will be running shortly. An important milestone is set for September to demonstrate a Bio-Medical application running on the LCG-2 production service. Further, the Mammogrid people are now involved in the project.

For what concerns Generic applications, the first EGAAP meeting has held on the 14th of June (http://agenda.cern.ch/fullAgenda.php?ida=a042351). During this event, 4 applications were presented, out of which 3 applications (i.e. comp. chemistry, earth science, astro-particle) were recommended for deployment with allocation of NA4 resources. To support this deployment, the following arrangements have been agreed:
- A mini-Project Plan will be made between each application and EGEE
- Progress will be presented at the next EGAAP meeting (part of the 2nd EGEE conference)

In parallel with these new applications, other EU Grid related projects are asking NA4 for support. These projects are: GRACE, Mammogrid and Diligent. Further, other projects have expressed interests in EGEE: Planck/Gaia (astroparticle) and SimDat (drug discovery).

In terms of risks, we need to address the growing interest from external institutes/ EU projects/ applications, without perturbing the efficient working of the activity.

As part of this activity, the Test Team has written a first test plan and defined a template. The team is working in contact with the JRA1 testing team.

The PM3 (and PM4/5) deliverables and milestones for NA3 are the following:
- MNA4.1 requirements – done. A simple web-based tool is being used for the management of the requirements.
- DNA4.1 Common Application Interface (PM3). A draft exists in EDMS and the document will be ready for review end of June.

As for the manpower, 70% of the staff has been identified (some groups have not yet provided the information, others are still hiring). However, we need a better process involving all the NA4 partners.

A NA4 open meeting will be held in Catania July 15-16. This meeting will include sessions with other activities: SA1, JRA4-SA2 and JRA1 (http://agenda.cern.ch/fullAgenda.php?ida=a041952).

NA4 – PTF

The role of the PTF is to provide a cross-activity forum to address requirements, specifications, etc. The mandate and composition was set-up by the PEB. The first meeting was held last 17th of June. The highlights of this first meeting are:
- Clarified mandate and programme of work
- Members from all activities attended (except NA2, NA3 and NA5)
- Information (e.g. agenda, minutes and email list) is public (http://agenda.cern.ch/fullAgenda.php?ida=a042424)

The next step is for the PTF to be submitted to PMB for approval. Then, the group will put together requirements from all sources and will first address specifications.

PTF members are involved in the review of the following PM3 related deliverables: DJRA1.1, DSA1.1 and DNA4.1.

NA4 – ARDA

The goal of the ARDA group is to address HEP analysis on the grid. The group is part of LCG/HEP and it includes representatives from the 4 LHC experiments and EGEE personnel.

The ARDA group is currently testing gLite software through experiment frameworks. A workshop is being held on the following week of the All Activity meeting in order to provide feedback on the first evaluation of the gLite software. As part of this evaluation, the group must ensure that a mechanism is put in place in order to provide simulation and reprocessing (i.e. batch jobs) using gLite, which can be tested with the experiments as well as analysis.

JRA1

The integration & testing efforts have shown excellent progress on tools infrastructure to support development/integration/testing. Further, the validation testbed setup includes the sites: CERN, NIKHEF and RAL. On this testbed, the 1st prototype has been deployed and the first bugs have been found. Configuration documentation is now available.

All software clusters contributing to the prototype now work. The 1st prototype has also been deployed at CERN & Wisconsin, where the ARDA and Bio-Medical representatives are evaluating the gLite prototype (see ARDA feedback presented following week to the All Activity Meeting - http://agenda.cern.ch/fullAgenda.php?ida=a042197). Over the summer, more components and services will be integrated.

As for the Execution Plan, the WBS and resource plan have been updated.

The main risks and concerns of this activity are the timescales vs. quality vs. requirements vs. complexity. The activity is also under high pressure to release at PM5 the deliverable: DJRA1.2 (design).

The PM3 (and PM4/5) deliverables and milestones for JRA1 are the following:
- MJRA1.1: Tools – done
- MJRA1.2: Software clusters development & test infrastructure – done.
- DJRA1.1: Architecture and Planning (Release 1) - Draft already distributed

In the near future (i.e. before the end of summer) the activity must ensure that all prototype software is put under SCM. Further, the test-suite must be established and deployed.

Just as we will avoid "big bang releases", we will avoid "big bang migration". This means that we should introduce gLite components (after certification), one at a time, into LCG-2 replacing or supplementing existing services. An important focus will be put on the migration of data currently managed by LCG-2. This means that we will need to foresee mechanisms to make sure this is transparent to the users. This approach to migration should be explained in the SA1 Execution Plan deliverable (DSA1.1).

During the data challenges from the LHC experiments, shortcomings in the data management services of LCG-2 have been found. These are already being addressed and discussed between JRA1 and SA1. We need to clarify what manpower will be used for this and to who it will report to (i.e. SA1 or JRA1).

Once we have clearly identified the services that gLite will provide (these should be described in the gLite architecture deliverable DJRA1.1) we will then make sure that the migration issues are addressed in the gLite design deliverable (DJRA1.2).

In terms of the platform gLite will run on, the following has been agreed between JRA1 and SA1:

- Linux RH Enterprise 3.x-based systems are the most widely accepted by the sites (see results of SA1 platform survey). No flavor of it (RHEL30, Scientific Linux, CEL3, Fermi Linux, etc) will be enforced / recommended.
- *Deployment platforms*: platforms supported by SA1. SA1 has to support a range of platforms as wide as possible. For this year, the platform support will be mainly oriented towards Linux (e.g. RH Enterprise 3.x or another Binary compatibly distribution based on the Sources of RH 3.0 like Scientific Linux, CERN Linux – CEL3) 32 and 64 bits platforms. The objective is for the project has to get into a situation where a wide range of platforms is supported in a simple way manner.
- The support responsibility inside SA1 is shared between the ROCs, which will support the different platforms deployed in their respective regions, and be involved in debugging and understanding platform issues for the platforms deployed on the region (according to the TA) before passing them to JRA1.
- JRA1 testing testbed (distributed in 3 sites: RAL, NIKEF and CERN) will run each site production platform (e.g. CEL3 in the case of CERN).
- SA1 certification testbed will also try to reproduce as much as possible the different deployed platforms.
- Windows still remains as secondary platform; JRA1 will compile, build and test on this platform as a way to ensure portability.
- The term *reference platform* is discarded; there will be no reference platform as such.

JRA2

Each deliverable, after review within the respective activities, will undergo a formal review in order to assess that it is consistent with project objectives (e.g. technical, quality and cost objectives). The whole process should typically take at least 4 weeks to complete.

The description of the review/release process of deliverables is being streamlined and improved for clarity.

Before the review starts:
- The activity, which is responsible for providing the deliverable, should write the scope and objectives of the deliverable and submit it to the PEB for approval, at the latest one month before the review starts.
- For each deliverable, the PEB chairperson will nominate the activity that will provide the moderator and minimum 2 activities (preferably 3) that will provide reviewers. This nomination will take place at least one month before the review starts. In turn, the activity manager that has to provide the moderator designates the moderator.
- The moderator finds appropriate reviewers (normally by asking the corresponding activity manager). This selection has to take place at least two weeks before start of the review.

In order for the review to start in time, the deliverable needs to be stored under EDMS, at the latest the last working day of the due month. This will allow the moderator to trigger the start of the formal review process.

The moderator collects the written comments (the following template is used for this purpose: https://edms.cern.ch/document/430624) from all reviewers (including his/her own) and comments from other PEB members if any. A consolidated list (i.e. without contradictions in the comments) is sent back to the author(s). The author(s) respond to the comment and amend the deliverable if necessary. These responses and modified deliverable is sent back to the moderator. The moderator then summarises this information and submit it to the PEB. The PEB then reviews the moderator's report. If the PEB approves the deliverable, it is then submitted to the Project Director, which if deemed satisfactory will in turn submit it to the PMB. When the PMB has finally approved the deliverable, the Project Director authorises the release of the deliverable to Brussels.

JRA3

A security gap analysis (https://edms.cern.ch/document/473230) has been performed with basic release plan taken into account by JRA1 (https://edms.cern.ch/document/480160). Further, the middleware security has been established and is working.

The PM3 (and PM4/5) deliverables and milestones for JRA3 are the following:
- MJRA3.2: PMA group set-up – done
- DJRA3.1: (PM5) security architecture – 80% completed

JRA4

The PM3 (and PM4/5) deliverables and milestones for JRA4 are the following:
- MJRA4.1 (PM3): Definition of Metrics – document in preparation. The document will be submitted to the PEB and will get feedback from SA2 and SA1

- DJRA4. 1(PM6): Specification Interfaces – in progress (50%)
- MJRA4.2 (PM6): Requirements & Use Cases (input from users, middleware and operations activities) - in progress (<50%)

In terms of staffing, the hiring is advancing but has not yet been finalized.

The main risks of this activity at this time are that the current architecture model relying too heavily on GN-2 software, since the GN-2 timescales is not clear. Another risk is lack of integration with CERN on network activities (JRA4/SA2). Here mitigation could be to suggest that CERN (David Foster) join TNLC.

SA1

The activity has better defined the roles and responsibilities for ROC and CIC. This included identifying the role of each ROC and ROC coordination.

The PM3 deliverables and milestones for SA1 are the following:
- DSA1.1: Execution Plan for first 15 months of infrastructure operation. This deliverable will enter formal review on the 1st of July 2004.

As for the status of the deployment of the LCG-2, RCs are connected in all federations. The deployment currently includes 62 sites, which covers PM6 and PM12 milestones. GRNET, Clermont and SARA are connected non-HEP sites.

Further, non-HEP applications are also being deployed: BIOMED VO supported by IN2P3-Lyon and INFN-CNAF RB, including RCs at Clermont and Lyon. At the moment, technical problem with CNAF RB are being addressed in order to get the first BIOMED job running.

The middleware certification testbed includes CERN (with other ROCs to join with first Italy and then SEE). This testbed will be used by SA1 people to certify the new middleware (i.e. gLite).

The plan for the pre-production testbed is to starts with LCG-2 while waiting for the first JRA1 components. Nick Thackray (CERN) will coordinate this service and produce the corresponding sections in the execution plan.

On the subject of the supported platform, an SA1 questionnaire was sent to the different RCs. The following the analysis of the questionnaires' responses, in agreement with JRA1, the supported platform will be RH Enterprise and free distribution from the same sources.

The personnel situation of the activity improved but still contains some holes and inconsistencies (e.g. CE, SW).

SA2

The WBS of the activity has been finalised.

In terms of manpower the RCC KI partner has been slow to start but now has a new team in place. A new plan was expected by the following Monday of the All Activity meeting.

The PM3 deliverables and milestones for SA2 are the following:
- MSA2.1: First meeting of EGEE-Geant/NRENs Liaison Board. The first meeting was held the week of the All Activity meeting. This meeting was the place to discuss and deal with practical issues of interface between NRENs and EGEE. The term of reference document is in EDMS under: http://edms.cern.ch/document/475291. The meeting also allowed the activity to build a database of networks connections (discuss with SA1).

In terms of risks, at the top of the list is the lack of understanding of networking issues by users, hence vague requirements being defined.

The next All-activity meeting will take place next September (13th of September). The focus of this meeting will be the review of the PM6 deliverables.