

A Specialized Support Centre for Large International Grid Communities (SLIC)

INFRA-2010-1.2.1.2

The aim of this proposal is to establish a specialized support centre (SSC) focusing on large international communities that use or will use the EGEE→EGI Grid infrastructure. The work that will be carried out by the SSC will be predominantly support for production exploitation of the Grid, following on from the successful adaption of numerous major applications and their communities to the Grid environment, ensuring that the return on past investment is maximized. Ease of use, low cost of entry and of ownership will be key priorities.

Background

The European Community has funded three phases of the Enabling Grids for E-sciencE project, which has resulted in large scale production use of world-class Grid-based solutions by many key communities. It has established Europe's leadership in this area and – in the particular case of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN and its computational and storage needs – brought us to the brink of scientific exploitation of this world facility. To capitalize on this investment and to ensure that Europe retains its leading role not only in Grid technologies but also in the scientific disciplines that are dependent on them, continued support for these communities is required. In the short to medium term it is expected that this will lead to significant advances in our basic understanding of the Universe around us, whereas in the longer term major spin-offs, both related to the advances in science as well as in Information Technology, can be expected.

Expected Results + Lead Users

The expected results of this work are a dramatic increase in the number of Grid users, as usage expands from the data processing activities that have dominated until now into the realm of data analysis, scientific discovery and publication. This can only be achieved by a significant simplification of an end-user's interaction with the Grid, through further adoption of existing tools such as Ganga, and by a flexible and scalable end-user support model. This includes the establishment of community support, whereby the communities are encouraged and enabled to be largely self-supporting, with expert guidance to establish and optimize the support structures and associated tools. This is essential not only to deal with the large expansion in terms of number of users but also for long-term sustainability.

[Numbers ???]

Phases of the Work

Organizations Involved and Their Roles

The organizations involved include CERN, as host organization for the LHC and as overall coordinator of the Worldwide LHC Computing Grid (WLCG), which today is built on EGEE and equivalent infrastructures in other parts of the world, DESY, INFN, ...

Expected Budget: €10,000,000 Framework 7 contribution €5,000,000 Duration 36 months