EGEE UF5 Programme Committee Kick-off Phone Conference

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday 09 October 2009
Meeting URL: http://indico.cern.ch/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=69899

Agenda

14:00 PC introduction (20')
Round table introduction to Programme Committee members.
Description of work and responsibilities

14:20 UF5 at a glance (20')
Introduction to the EGEE User Forum. Focus of this year's event. Overall theme and organizational goals. Current progress of the local organization. The conference web site and indico page are already available with basic content:
- http://egee-uf5.eu-egee.org
- http://indico.cern.ch/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=69

14:40 Call for Abstracts (20')
Comments and agreement on the CfA text

15:00 Deadlines (20')
Discussion and agreement on important dates and deadlines.

15:20 Trainings and Keynote speakers (20')
- Robin and Gergely have requested that NA3 trainings are organized in parallel with the main event in order to increase visibility and attendance
- We should start thinking about good candidate keynote speakers and the subject they should cover. Some suggestions have already started to circulate.

15:40 AoB (20')
Schedule of next phone calls and any other business.

Present:

1. Vangelis Floros (GRNET)
2. Frank Harris (Oxford and CERN)
3. Claudio Vuerli (INAF)
4. Paco Castejon (CIEMAT)
5. Johan Montagnat (I3S)
6. Patricia Mendez Lorenzo (CERN)
7. Catherine Gater (CERN)
8. Cal Loomis (LAL)
9. Cecile Germain (LRI and LAL)
10. Horst Schwichtenberg (Fraunhofer SCAI)
11. Erwin Laure (PDC/KTH)
12. Josva Kleist (NDGF)
13. Stuart Dunn (KCL/Humanities)
14. Paschalis Korosoglou (AUTH/Complex Systems)
15. Kristina Gunne (CERN)

16. Steven Newhouse (CERN)

Apologies:
1. Mariusz Sterzel (CYFRONET)
2. Vincent Breton (IN2P3)
3. Gergely Sipos (SZTAKI)
4. Bob Jones (CERN)
5. Maite Barroso Lopez (CERN)
6. Francesco Giacomini (INFN/CERN)
7. Robin McConnel (NeSC)
8. Christophe Blanchet (IBCP/ Bioinformatics)
9. Monique Petitdidier (IPSL)
10. Sverker Holmgren (Uppsala University)

AGENDA ITEMS:

PC Introduction

The User Forum programme committee is traditionally comprised of the NA4 SC plus key members of EGEE and a few people coming from collaborating projects. This year we've expanded the PC's outreach in order to include new-coming communities (e.g. Humanities and Complex Systems), communities from infrastructures outside EGEE (NDGF) and key people from local organization. Currently the above 25 people have joined the PC.

The PC is responsible for the overall scientific program, for organizing and releasing the call for abstracts, for collecting and reviewing the abstracts, for the formulation of the programme timetable and in the end for defining keynote speakers and session conveners.

Vangelis: *Unfortunately we didn't receive any reply from DEISA people and from the leader of Photon Physics community (Volker Guelzow).*

UF at a glance

This year the UF is moving north for the first time and actually the last since this is the final user forum organized by EGEE conference. The future User Forums which will probably will have a different name will be the responsibility of the EGI organisation.

The meeting is organized in Uppsala, Sweden and the hosts will be SNIC, PDC and UPPMAX. The event will start on Monday afternoon end by Thursday lunch time. The venue will be available till Friday so we can organize other meetings, trainings or tutorials. The scientific program comprises of oral, poster and demo sessions. The contributions are gathered in the form of abstracts submitted by the authors using the CERN indico conferencing system. All abstracts are reviewed from at least on member of the Program Committee which defines if it is accepted and in which of the three sessions. Authors are given detailed instructions regarding the expected format and content of the abstracts. We will come back to the issue of abstracts when we discuss the Call for Abstracts

Trainings and tutorials will also take place before and after the event.

Parallel meetings and workshops are usually discouraged. Our intention is to keep this rule also for this year.

Vangelis and Kristina will visit the venue end of October for on-site inspection. Based on the current input we have about space we plan to host a maximum of 20 demonstration split in two dedicated demo sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. The demos will share 10 different booths thus we will have 10 different demos on presentation during each session. The total poster boards we expect to have is 40. More information on this, after the visit.

Call for Abstracts

Josva: *The first three bullets define very similar goals. Shall we combine them? We could also add one more category regarding Data-intensive applications.*

Vangelis: *The bullets define thematic areas that authors have to choose when submitting their abstract*

Erwin: *This puts the themes in a complete different perspective. We should rethink about consolidating thematic areas or introduction new ones*

Vangelis: *The above approach is not binding actually. It was just the approach we followed last year. We could separate them.*

Actions

- **Vangelis** to provide an updated CfA taking into account the above comments.

Deadlines

No objection for the deadlines referenced in the current version of CfA . The deadline for acceptance notification is the same like last year. Although we will have more or less one more month for the preparations we will have to keep the same schedule in order to work on various preparatory aspects of the scientific program preparation and in particular the production of the Book of Abstracts.

Trainings, Keynote speakers.

Robin and Gergely suggested that trainings should be organized in parallel with the main event and not the weekend before or after as it was done in the past. This will increase the publicity of the trainings and attract a larger audience.

Kristina: *Our discussions so far were based on the assumption that training will take place on Friday. If NA3 provides a schedule for trainings early enough we can include them in the registration form and also promote them through the web site.*

Vangelis: *Also it will be difficult to allocate sufficient space in the venue both for the trainings and the parallel sessions*

Actions

- **Vangelis** and **Kristina** to discuss with Robin and Gergely the alternative options for hosting the EGEE NA3 trainings.

We may receive requests for tutorials by collaborating projects. How to handle this?

Erwin: *Lets leave it open. No need to specifically make a reference in CfA. This is not a call for session organization. Depending on the requests we will handle them appropriately.*

We should start thinking early about keynote speakers. A typical scenario is to host 5 keynotes spread in two morning plenary sessions (Tuesday and Wednesday) and in the opening plenary on Monday. Already some PC members have provided a few suggestions.

Cecile: *Invite a key person from Autonomic Computing community. A couple of choices are available. Do it early in order to give time for people to prepare their travel arrangements.*

Patricia*: I propose one keynote from the HEP community. Not sure exactly who could be the best choice but will come-back promptly with a concrete proposal.*

Vangelis: *All the above proposals are reasonable and seem like a good choice*

Actions:

- **All**: Think about potential good keynote speakers and provide suggestions in the coming weeks. We should discuss this and finalize the list if possible during the next meeting.

AOB

AOB.1 - Publication of papers in journal special issue

Apart from the BoA in two cases we have decided to publicise full paper version of the abstracts to a scientific journal. This was the case for UF2 in Manchester and we are currently in the process to prepare a special for the journal of Grid Computing (edt Peter Kaczuk).

Vangelis: *Our experience has shown that the process requires lots of time and effort. Given that the project will end right after the User Forum it is quite unlickely that anyone can take this responsibility. Already four members of the current PC are engaged with the process of the JOGC special issues which is expected to be published middle of 2010. For these reasons I suggest not to do it this time.*

Cecile: *It would be a petty to take this opportunity away from people submitting abstracts for the UF. This issue was not announced early in the agenda so most probably PC members are not prepared to commit for this yet.*

Patricia: *I agree with Cecile. We should not leave the opportunity for "official" publication of the abstracts.*

Frank: *Indeed it takes considerable effort. If a champion comes forward during this time we could consider it.*

Vangelis: *Lets leave this option open. I will modify the CfA appropriately to hint about the opportunity without making strong commitment that there will be a special issue indeed.*

Actions

- **Vangelis** to update the CfA before release reflecting the above suggestions for potential publication of papers.

AOB.2 - Scheduling of next phone calls

A rough schedule for PC meeting is the following.

- One meeting in November to see the progress of the Call and also discuss about Keynote speakers
- One meeting before the CfA expires to check the overall progress and decide about potential extensions
- Two meetings before Christmas in order to finalize review results and agree on overall scientific program
- At least one more meeting after NY we discuss about the event timetable, sessions, BoA and candidate conveners.

Exact dates for the next conferences will be announced way ahead of time to allow PC members to arrange their schedules accordingly.