

EIROFORUM Grids Group

Status Report 2005-2006

Participants:

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In the last year, the EIROFORUM has held several teleconferences and videoconferences plus one face-to-face meeting at CERN in Geneva in September 2005. The chairmanship was taken over by Salim Ansari of ESA from David Williams of CERN for the period of one year.

During this period the activities of the Group have been restricted to testing software components and using technologies developed under a project of one EIRO and used by another. This was particularly successfully tested by CERN members (Ian Bird), who visited ILL in Grenoble to give a presentation on the EGEE project, which stimulated practical use of the technology. The Grenoble area seems to be an ideal place for strong collaboration between ILL/ESRF/EMBL.

The group wishes to emphasize three specific recommendations:

1. The EIRO organizations are encouraged to share Grid software, whenever possible. This will facilitate the transfer of know-how and technology from one centre and allow Grid technology to be beneficial to areas that have not yet been exposed to it.
2. The EIRO organizations are encouraged to share their experiences in this area. Visits by Staff from one organization to another will allow the wider spread of Grid technology to flourish and be used. In particular, the experience gathered by CERN through the EGEE (European Grid for E-Science) projects I and II should become the standard within, firstly a European context and later be encouraged to be extended to a global scale.
3. The EIRO organizations are encouraged to involve industrial partners in using Grid technology whenever necessary. These industrial partners may be as wide in scope, ranging from the Aerospace industry to pharmaceutical industries that would benefit from a collaborative supercomputing environment, where the sharing of data and resources become the norm.