

Statement reflecting the French position, as defined after the National Steering Committee meeting of the French NGI, under the aegis of the French Ministry of Research on March, 10, 2009

Dear colleagues,

The French NGI steering committee had an important meeting today to take stock of the recent news concerning EGI. The French steering committee would like first to reiterate its full support to the EGI vision and long term goals.

However, we are concerned that the aggressive timeline presented to us (extracted from Ludek Matyska's presentation at the final plenary session in Catania) could give rise in case of likely delays to serious transition problems that could endanger EGEE's most important application, WLCG, at a critical moment, the startup of LHC experiments. France would therefore like to introduce an alternative scheme which, while preserving the mid term and long term goals, decouples the preparation of the EU funded projects from the setting up of the EGI.org legal structure during the transition period. Our proposal is to assign to CERN the role of the "Host Institution" as defined in the MoU to minimize any transition effects during the critical period of LHC startup. The handover from CERN to the final EGI.org setup could then occur in 2011. Please find attached a MoU version corresponding to that model.

The respective roles would be:

- a) EGI\_DS together with CERN set up the technical teams in charge of the EU projects calls
- b) EGI Policy Board validates the MoU and Lol which will be sent to each NGI as scheduled, allowing the establishment of an EGI interim council. The EGI interim council will be made of formally appointed national delegates.
- c) CERN acting as the Host institution would be in charge of hiring EGI.org key personnel identified in the MoU.
- d) CERN as Host Institution would be the coordinator of the NGIs for answering the European grid infrastructure call to be launched by the EC before the end of 2009. The EGI interim council should form the EU project consortium.
- e) The EGI interim council will be in charge of the smooth transition to the final EGI.org structure and site decision.
- f) France would like to see an explicit mention of a scientific advisory body associated to the EGI Council. An interim version of this Scientific Council should be put in place to advise the interim EGI Council. This interim Scientific Council would be charged to perform an in-depth review of the final version of the EGI Blueprint.

Hoping we can gather a large consensus along these lines,

Best regards

Guy Wormser

Director of the French NGI, on behalf of the French national steering Committee on production Grids