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Highlights from OGF23

International Partnerships Shine at OGF23

From June 2-6, over 500 delegates descended upon Barcelona to network, showcase achievements, map out requirements for distributed computing and push forward standardization. The event helped connect the people of OGF and newcomers from across the globe. OGF and OGF-Europe strongly support engagement on a truly global level to ensure that people around the world work together to drive openness and interoperability that is of value to business and science.

In this respect, OGF welcomed the active participation of three EU projects that are highly active in the development and deployment of distributed computing between Europe, China and India: Bridge, EchoGRID and EU-IndiaGrid. The three projects are a good example of global partnerships bringing not just technical value-add but also playing a central role in strengthening relations between Europe and other parts of the world.

Europe has invested in and widely supported the development of grids with a focus on large-scale resource sharing, innovative applications, and high-performance orientation. Distributed computing plays a key role within the framework of China's IT development to create new industry and research areas that are making impressive headway. "Bridge (Bilateral Research and Industrial Development Enhancing & Integrating Grid Enabled Technologies) has developed key technologies in both grid middleware and in applications, including gateway-based interoperability, Master/worker parallel programming model for grid computing, cross domain security policies mapping, and reliable massive data transfer," says Gilbert Kalb, Fraunhofer Gesellschaft and project coordinator.

The three applications come with their own set of objectives and scenario and centre on simulation and design in aerospace; environmental disaster prediction; and drug discovery. The respective workflows provide scheduling across both EU and China with different operational services. The scenarios have generated key knowledge that enables the combination of results to get the data needed faster, demonstrating how partners are leveraging computing resources and people power, key features of the knowledge based economy. "Bridge is now planning to make a contribution to standards in interoperability and grid-enabled application technologies by taking part in a number of international activities, including OGF working group activities," says Kalb.

EchoGRID (European and Chinese Co-operation on Grid) is a road-mapping project that has established synergies with similar initiatives and projects like Bridge to map out future research priorities in areas like new programming paradigms, grid architectures, SOA, grid management, virtual organisation, component models, and workflows and business processes. EchoGRID, which is actively engaged in grid open standards, supported an OGF23 session on roadmaps and strategic

research agendas featuring NESSI-Grid, Challengers, CoreGRID, 3S, and NEXOF-RA to define common strategies and future activities within OGF.

OGF23 also offered a forum for discussions on interoperability and interoperation between Europe and Asia, a crucial step toward establishing a cross-continent infrastructure with the aim of evolving towards a common standard. The talk by Savita Utreja, ERNET (Education and Research Network), was peppered with Indian network perspectives, indicating how the government is investing in grid technology, high speed networks, and thematic research areas. Utreja explained the links between India's Integrated National Knowledge Network (iNKN), technology software parks and industry.

The session was led by EU-IndiaGrid with an opening presentation by project co-ordinator, Dr. Alberto Masoni, INFN. A set of interesting talks were delivered by Erwin Laure, EGEE-III; Morris Riedl, Juelich Supercomputing Centre; Eric Yen, Academia Sinica; Yu Feng & Brian Amedro, EchoGRID; Kazushiga Saga, NAREGI; Giuseppe Andronico, INFN; and Marco Paganoni, EU-AsiaGrid. EU-IndiaGrid partners offering insight include Stefano Cozzini, CNR/INFM Democritos and ICTP and Subrata Chattopadhyay, C-DAC. The session helped attendants understand how international partnerships and initiatives are playing a key role in terms of interoperability and standardisation.

About Bridge

The EU project, Bridge (Bilateral Research and Industrial Development Enhancing and Integrating Grid enabled Technologies), (www.bridge-grid.eu/) has formed a partnership between European and Chinese organizations to develop extensions of the GRIA (EU) and CNGrid/GOS (China) platforms. Extensions to these platforms has enabled the development of three showcase scenarios using the resources of both platforms. The application scenarios demonstrate cooperative design, simulation and access across national boundaries with an interoperability approach combining heterogeneous Grid infrastructures.

About EchoGRID

EchoGRID is chartered with defining 3, 5 and 10 year roadmaps developing a shared European and Chinese vision of future Grid research perspectives for both the academic and business communities on which both sides can collaborate.

About EU-IndiaGrid

EU-IndiaGrid supports interconnectivity between the EU Grid infrastructure, EGEE, and the Indian Grid infrastructures, Garuda India Grid and Department of Atomic Energy Grid. EU-IndiaGrid delivers an advanced infrastructure for scientific and industrial collaborations across the two regions, leveraging a hardware infrastructure of about 600 core processors and 50TB of disk.

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