

Dear Carole

Re: **myGrid: A Platform for e-Biology**

This is a letter to show my strong support for the proposal “**myGrid: A Platform for e-Biology**”. On behalf of the EGEE consortium, I am delighted to confirm our intent and enthusiasm to work with myGrid and this platform grant is crucial to underpin our collaboration.

EGEE (Enabling Grids for E-Science in Europe) is integrating national, regional and thematic computing and data Grids to create a European Grid-empowered infrastructure for the support of the many scientific applications, exploiting unique expertise generated by previous EU projects (DataGrid, CrossGrid, DataTAG, etc) and national Grid initiatives (UK e-Science, INFN Grid, Nordugrid, US Trillium, etc).

The EGEE consortium involves 70 leading institutions in 27 countries, federated in regional Grids, with a combined capacity of over 20000 CPUs, the largest international Grid infrastructure ever assembled.

The EGEE vision is to provide distributed European research communities with a common market of computing, offering round-the-clock access to major computing resources, independent of geographic location, building on the EU Research Network Geant and NRENs. EGEE hosts applications from two pilot scientific domains: particle physics and biomedicine and as such myGrid fits perfectly with the scope and goals of the project.

Porting myGrid is a major step toward enabling in silico biology on the EGEE infrastructure. The problem that myGrid tackles – supporting the day to day activities of bioinformaticians – is one of the fundamental problems we need to address today in “in silico” biology. It is a challenging and difficult one, but crucial to address if we are to leverage the resources that the post-genomic data boom is putting our way, and support our scientists as the work in international collaborations.

Integration with EGEE infrastructure will require careful study of the myGrid security and execution models, to allow the myGrid services to be fully deployed on international e-infrastructure and thereby leverage the underlying security, data, and computational resources. This integration should automatically allow the myGrid services to be fully supported in the UK's NGS.

Initial discussion between myGrid, EGEE and NGS have highlighted the following first steps:

1. NGS and EGEE to investigate the provision of suitable sources for myGrid Services
2. interfacing of myGrid computational tools (e.g. BLAST) with these services on NGS and EGEE
3. interfacing of myGrid services to the NGS and EGEE Authentication and Authorisation infrastructures (probably through the 2nd generation web services based gLite middleware currently being prepared by EGEE)
4. feedback on myGrid requirements and experience for gLite development and deployment

By funding the platform proposal we will be able to resource this collaborative work that cannot be resourced otherwise. My colleagues and I look forward to the opportunity of a fruitful collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Fabrizio Gagliardi
EGEE Project Director