Working Group 4: Fabric Management

- **Overall goals**: look at site experience in the area of fabric management; focus on fabric management/operations in the context of grid services; understand where common problems or weak areas are; try to converge on some best practices. How can we reduce the frequently heard lament that local problems are one of the main reasons for suboptimal grid reliability?

- Tentative list of topics:
  - **System installations** (LCFGng; Quattor; manual; script-based; what else?). Experience? Which requirements? (e.g.: why do you want/need Quattor? Or manual installation procedures? Or other things? Mix and match?) Which commitments?
  - **Batch/scheduling systems**; flavors? Work on testing / development / improvements in this area? Documentation/management tools? How do we define/enforce policies? What policies? (Hard limits? Fairshares?)
  - How do we **monitor the fabric** and what do we do with monitoring info; explore what sites are using / have developed; or what they would like to have, and miss. How do we certify/select fabric components? How do we provide status information to fabric users?
  - **Fabric set-ups** for the grid (shared file systems? MPI support? Parallel FS? Hyperthreading? Bad/good experiences to share? Use cases? How do we manage storage? Networking?)
  - **Upgrade procedures**, how are they triggered, and how do we cope with them? For example: security/performance patches to clusters; upgrades (or downgrades) to batch systems
  - How do/can we provide fabric-related **feedback to LCG/EGEE**?
  - How do we **disseminate information** about fabric/grid issues? (Fabric training for sites? Training on how batch systems are used – for app developers? Do we [want to] publish policies?)
  - **Conflicts** with other (non-grid / non-LCG) uses of the fabric?
  - Can we identify **points of contact** for (some of) these topics?
  - How do we **keep on discussing** these things? Hepix? Some sort of LCG/EGEE-specific forum?
  - ?

- Format
  - For each topic: informal presentations from site operations; discussion; actions, timeline