Iberian Common Infrastructure Plan for Distributed Computation, current situation and Prospects

Ramón Gavela

CIEMAT (Acting on behalf of the members of the "Comisión Mixta")
"Plan Comun Iberico"

Abstract

The Iberian Common Infrastructure Plan for Distributed Computation results from the political will for scientific co-operation between the Spanish and Portuguese Governments, stated on the Scientific Co-operation Agreement dated November 2003 and, in particular, on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Spanish and Portuguese Ministries of Science and Education dated November 2005.

This MoU has been put into practice thanks to both Ministries Tracking Commission and Scientific Committee, where the *Document of Bases for an Iberian Common Infrastructure Plan for Distributed Computation* was written and approved in May 2007, and which is the technical roadmap that focuses the co-operation e-Science activities between countries.

e-Science is the field for the Iberian Common Plan that covers the following areas:

- Common Grid Computation Infrastructure
- Communications
- Applications
- Supercomputation
- Training and Information
- Mobility for researchers

The Scientific Committee has met five times, three of them in order to prepare the Common Plan and reach its approval and to promote the Ibergrid Conference; and the last two times, on 24th July 2007 in Valencia and 28th January 2008 in Porto, in order to focus and foster the Plan activities.

The current status may be summarised as follows:

- Grid Infrastructure

A proposal based on the existing consolidated infrastructures –i.e. EGGE, EELA and INT.EU.GRID- has been made and is currently been commented. The proposal is expected to be dealt with during the 2008 Ibergrid Conference.

- Communications

A great effort has been done in order to bring into reality both connections between the academic nets in Portugal and Spain, in Valença –in the Galice border-, and Elvas -in the boundary line with Extremadura. Portugal has launched tenders for these connections over its territory and has built a major part of the facilities. Spain possesses a defined project and FEDER funds for its implementation and expects to be able to connect them shortly with the support of the involved Autonomous Communities.

- Applications

Although they are subject to the Grid infrastructure to be defined and carried out, it is expected that two applications will be defined shortly, most probably in the fields of Medicine and Catastrophe Management, based on a common inventory been carried out in the present in both countries.
There is anyway a broad collaboration experience between groups in Portugal and Spain that has been raising over the last few years.

- Supercomputation

There is a large tradition in collaboration between Galice and universities in the North of Portugal. A defined scheme of wider collaboration is expected, which allows sharing the use of supercomputation centres in both countries.

- Training and information

Both the Ibergrid Conference and the continuous interchange of information between e-Science initiatives in both countries are raising participation in joint EU events as well as collaboration in new initiatives.
e-Science training courses in both countries are opened to each other.

- Mobility for researchers

Mobility for researchers is intended to be promoted with the support of National Plans calls regardless of bilateral collaborations between groups from both countries and joint participation in EU projects.