

POLISH GRID INFRASTRUCTURE – THE RESEARCH SPACE FOR SCIENTISTS

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The design and development of Polish Grid Infrastructure is supported by national project PL-Grid. The main goal of the project is to build long-term sustainable grid infrastructure based on computer clusters to fulfil the needs concerning computing resources and storage capabilities of Polish scientists. To assure international cooperation between various scientists this infrastructure will be compatible and interoperable with existing European and worldwide Grid. The system will be scalable enough to attach local university resources or technology platforms. The access to the grid infrastructure offered in the framework of the PL-Grid project is free of charge for scientists and all persons conducting research, which is connected with a university or a scientific institute in Poland. The access is based on a mechanism of computational grants usually valid for one year with possibility of extension. The actors of the project currently consist of five Polish High Computing Centres led by ACC Cyfronet AGH.

Scientific communities are the focal points of the PL-Grid project. Therefore a large fraction of the PL-Grid activities is devoted to lower users' distraction caused by new technology. To this end project provides several tools and services simplifying most vital tasks performed by users including registration as a user on the infrastructure, application for specific computing and/or storage resources within a computational grant and helpdesk. Together with the mentioned services the PL-Grid platform offers access to variety of scientific software packages from many science domains including chemistry, physics, biology or material science. It is also possible to utilise any UNIX/Linux software application on PL-Grid infrastructure. In such cases we offer our help and expertise in adjusting specific software application to grid platform together with mechanisms to protect it against unauthorised usage.

In this short introduction we will point out the key steps needed to become PL-Grid infrastructure user. Basic aspects concerning the infrastructure itself will be presented together with registration procedure, available resources and available software or ways of gaining help. Aside technical details users' successful stories concerning utilisation of PL-Grid infrastructure will be demonstrated as well.

The PL-Grid project is part of Operational Program: Innovative Economy. For more information please visit the project web page: www.plgrid.pl

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