

## Calendar/Meetings

### July

9-21, [International Summer School on Grid Computing](#), Ischia, Italy

17-21, [22nd APAN Meeting](#), Singapore

17-21, [IFIP Working Conference on Grid-based Problem Solving Environments](#), Prescott, AZ

18-August 1, [University Politehnica of Bucharest \(UPB\) 2nd Grid Initiative Summer School](#), Bucharest, Romania

21-23, [GEON Cyberinfrastructure Workshop](#), Beijing, China

24-28, [Current and Future Generation Grid Technology CoreGRID Summer School 2006](#), Bonn, Germany

24-28, [CI-HASS: Cyberinfrastructure for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences a Summer Institute](#), San Diego, California

[Full Calendar](#)

## Image of the Week

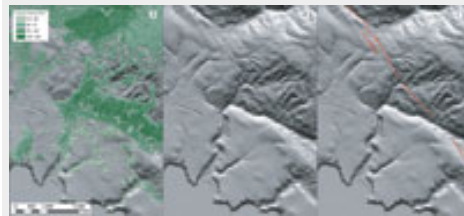


**EGEE sites involved in collaboration with the International Telecommunications Union. (Click on image for larger version.)**

*Image Courtesy EGEE*

## Feature Story

### Journey to the Surface of the Earth



Three digital terrain models for a portion of the Northern San Andreas Fault LiDAR data set: with vegetation (left); bare earth (center); with active trace of San Andreas fault (right).  
*Image Courtesy Christopher Crosby*

The Earth is being systematically scanned. From high above, lasers are being used to create a three-dimensional, high-resolution map of every nook and cranny on the Earth's surface.

It might sound like a plot from science fiction—a mad scientist scanning the planet for nefarious purposes, perhaps—but these maps are science fact. Created using LiDAR, an acronym for Light Detection and Ranging, the high-resolution maps are being used today by many (perfectly sane) scientists to study everything from flood and earthquake hazards to vegetation density.

Transforming vast LiDAR data sets into useful topographic maps requires sifting through billions of three-dimensional data points and running computationally intensive algorithms. Researchers from the Geosciences Network are working to make this process easier for a larger number of scientists using a data processing workflow accessed through a Web portal.

[Full article](#)

## Announcement

### Putting Your Computer to Work in the Fight Against Malaria



Snapshot of the MalariaControl.net screen saver.

While you are sending an email or surfing the web, your computer could be helping to tackle one of Africa's major humanitarian challenges, malaria. Africa@home, a project conceived and coordinated by CERN, was launched publicly this week. It is recruiting volunteer computers in homes and offices to run a computer-intensive simulation program called MalariaControl.net, developed by researchers at the Swiss Tropical Institute (STI).

Malaria is responsible for about a million deaths every year in sub-Saharan Africa, and is the single biggest killer in children under five. The MalariaControl.net program is being used to simulate how malaria spreads through Africa. Running the simulations on thousands of volunteer computers will enable researchers to better understand and improve the impact of introducing new treatments.

To install MalariaControl.net, volunteers just need to download the necessary software from the Africa@home website, which will do the scientific calculations in the background, while they are doing something else. The results are regularly returned to a server at the University of Geneva, so that the researchers can evaluate them. Already, in a first test phase over several months with 500 volunteers, Africa@home was able to run

From May 15 to June 16, 12 EGEE sites supported a series of large-scale data processing activities for the International Telecommunications Union. The data processing, carried out at regular intervals over the ITU's five-week Regional Radio-communication Conference, rapidly mapped the consequences of different scenarios for establishing a new frequency plan for digital broadcasting. The processing was completed using an advanced software suite developed by the European Broadcasting Union. The EGEE infrastructure added the power of more than 400 PCs to the ITU's 100-PC computing system.

[Read more...](#)

### Link of the Week


#### **US National Virtual Observatory**

The US NVO project is exploring software and services that will enable new science by greatly enhancing access to astronomical data and computing resources. The NVO, a TeraGrid Science Gateway, makes it easy to locate, retrieve and analyze data from archives and catalogs worldwide.

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 Office of Science/  
U.S. DOE

### Register Now for Next Open Science Grid Consortium Meeting



The Seattle skyline.  
*Image Courtesy Michele Livan*

The next Open Science Grid Consortium Meeting will take place August 21–23 at the University of Washington in Seattle. Registration is now open for the event, which will feature plenary and parallel sessions as well as live grid demonstrations. Plenary sessions will highlight topics from genome analysis and nanotechnology to grid software and security. In the parallel sessions, participants will delve further into the workings of the OSG, with several sessions geared toward newcomers to the project.

The OSG Consortium enables diverse communities of scientists to harness a common grid infrastructure and shared resources, and is actively partnering with campus, regional, national and international grid projects. Since its launch one year ago, OSG resources have benefited scientists in physics, astrophysics, nanotechnology, bioinformatics and mathematics.

To register, or for more information, please visit the [meeting Web site](#).

simulations equivalent to 150 years of processing time on a single computer.

[Read the full CERN press release](#)

### Grids in the News

#### **Scientists with super powers**

Sydney Morning Herald, July 18, 2006  
By Cynthia Karena

Two years ago, Professor Ah Chung Tsoi recognised the brilliance and passion of colleague Professor David Abramson.

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#### **Taking on the interoperability challenge**

IST Results, July 13, 2006

Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) software design is billed as the next great IT wave, ushering in a new era of efficient network services, cross-organisational business cooperation and potentially whole new sectors.

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#### **On the Pulse of Grid Computing**

NCSA Access Online, July 11, 2006

Brown University researchers complete the largest simulation of arterial blood flow ever and begin work on a platform that will allow the bioengineering community to use it.

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