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The BEinGRID project aims to demonstrate and extend the use of Grid middleware to better suit the needs of small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs). EPCC has already been involved in FilmGrid, which used data management techniques to enhance the film post-production workflow.

FilmGrid (see page 8) was part of the first phase of eighteen Business Experiments which contributed requirements and scenarios for technical and business activities in the BEinGRID project. A set of components has flowed from these requirements that has tailored existing middleware to better suit the needs of business users.

GRID2(B2B) is part of the second phase of seven Business Experiments. This phase, as well as contributing more requirements to the common activities, acts as a validation of the components already developed during the first two years of the project.

The GRID2(B2B) Business Experiment aims to allow B2B platforms to evolve significantly. Currently data and process synchronisation between the participants of the B2B network requires a human operator, logging onto a portal or generating and processing files that represent supply-chain activities. What is missing is an affordable B2B platform extension to automate this synchronisation. While bigger companies can adopt new software, SMEs can only afford synchronisation if they can retain their original (legacy) infrastructure.



The technical partners of the project are EPCC, CINECA and Joinet. Joinet is the developer of the MaNeM B2B platform that is being used in this experiment. In addition three of Joinet's customers are part of the consortium. Ducati, who makes sports motorcycles, and PM and Bentivogli, two of Ducati's suppliers.

The experiment will make extensive use of the OGSA-DAI Trigger component which has been developed at EPCC as part of the common activities of the BEinGRID project and builds upon the OGSA-DAI middleware. It allows an OGSA-DAI workflow to be executed in response to changes detected in a relational database. This is one of a number of components which was recently made available through www.gridipedia.eu.

The experiment began in March and runs for 12 months. It has already produced a set of requirements and we are working to produce a detailed design over the coming months.