

## **Grids Deployment at the Crossroads— An Update on the EU-Funded Research Efforts**

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Grid technologies are establishing today the basis of a new class of infrastructure that will enable a new generation of (revolutionary) approaches to scientific research. At the same time, Grid prospects look more than ever before so close to evolving commercial needs. In this picture, current research initiatives clearly demonstrate a trend to further develop and evolve Grid computational concepts in an effort to link the Grid to a much broader range of problems, application areas, and other technological concepts. It is obvious that the impact of Grid technology on the broader e-Economy domain needs further understanding. That may lead to important decisions on a national or international level regarding relevant major infrastructure upgrades.

The European Commission (EC), and particularly the IST Programme of DG INFSO, is making a major effort to exploit the impact of Grids on the e-Economy and support the deployment of Grid technologies in Europe. The EC has invested approximately 40 m Euro during the last two years for research on Grids (examples of important research initiatives are the DataGrid, GridLAB, CrossGrid, Eurogrid, DataTAG, and Damien). New research initiatives are expected to start in the year 2002 after a recently closed IST Call for Proposals. In the context of the next European Framework Programme for research (2002-2006), Grid research and deployment efforts are expected to significantly increase following a broader vision of Grids (*Grids a utility?*) that is currently being discussed.