

EFG : Equipex France Grilles

The proposal aims to coordinate the expansion of the recently established national production grid infrastructure. It is the opportunity to extend the capacities of existing nodes and to favour emergence of new nodes at strategic locations. The application is proposed by a very large consortium gathering 12 partners, distributed geographically throughout France. Teams involved cover a large spectrum of skills, most of them being very good in their field of competences.

The requested equipment consists in rather conventional commercially available instruments and the proposal represents mostly a way to upgrade already existing facilities or equip new facilities and could not convince in terms of novelty. By upgrading actual facilities it will allow the groups to stay competitive and to provide increasing capacities of analysis and storage of data from scientific communities and expand the use of services to new disciplines and communities. The innovative aspect of the proposal would certainly arise from the research programs proposed by the users of the services provided by the infrastructure. Unfortunately, the proposal lacks of such scientific details. Interdisciplinary efforts are indicated but very little planning is presented about actual projects or cross-over between groups. The proposal fails to describe how the purchase of a distributed instrumentation will foster direct interactions between the groups, and how this will lead to innovations in a broad spectrum of fields.

Given the huge size and the broad spectrum of scientific interests of the consortium, and its localization in several institutes distributed throughout France, a good management is a strong need. There is no description of the methodology and of the problems that will be tackled. Due to the lack of milestones, it is difficult to assess how the project will be managed over the next ten years and how the applicants intend to anticipate possible scientific or technical difficulties.

Finally, this is a proposal to upgrade and enhance various aspects of infrastructure at a national level. The aim of the proposal is ambitious, but a very broad and rather vague program without focus is presented. The proposal would be improved by focusing on a few clear goals, and with a clear description of the deliverables and timelines and of the management.