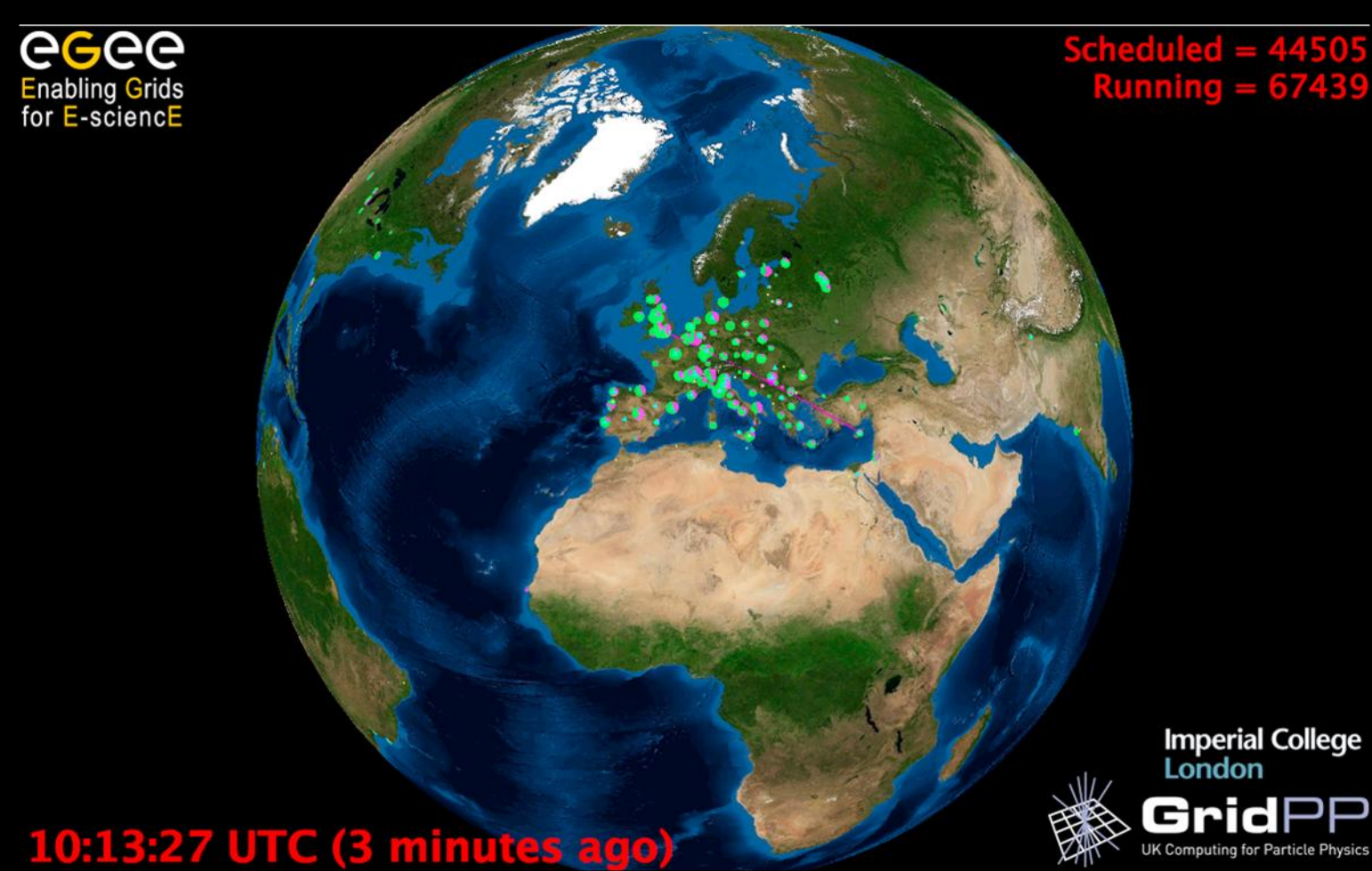


Building our National Grid Infrastructure

Grid technology has developed as a key "e-infrastructure" over the last few years through investment in e-Science at both the National and European levels. Grids allow researchers to collaborate to make use of computing resources distributed on a global scale.



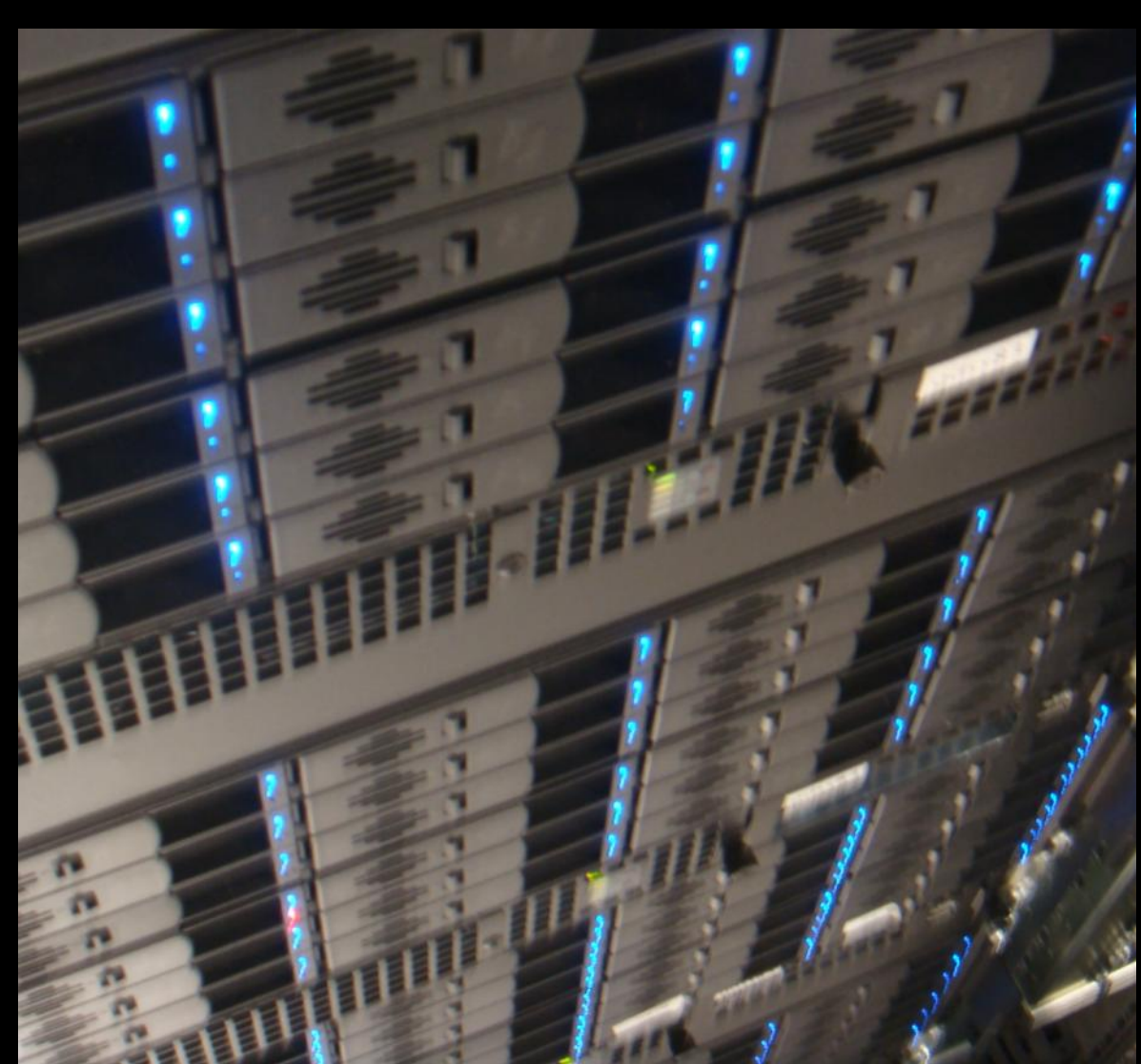
The user community that already makes use of the Grid is very large and is growing and diversifying quickly, generating new requirements that are beyond the scope of fixed term projects. The **European Grid Initiative (EGI)** is a EC initiative that aims to ensure the long term sustainability of the grid infrastructure for all research communities.

The main foundations of EGI are the **National Grid Initiatives (NGI)**, which operate the grid infrastructures in each country. EGI will link existing NGIs and will actively support the setup and initiation of new NGIs. It'll provide global services and support that complement and/or co-ordinate national services, such as security and Virtual Organisation (VO) support.



EGI member states

Within the UK, the NGI is currently a combination of the **NGS** (<http://www.ngs.ac.uk>) and the **GridPP** projects (<http://www.gridpp.ac.uk>), including the UK's National supercomputer facility, **HECToR** (<http://www.hector.ac.uk/>).



These projects are **working together** to ensure that the UK is appropriately engaged in EGI to support UK researchers working on European and international projects. We expect the **UK NGI to evolve further** in the future with the inclusion of ESFRI and other international projects such as ELIXIR, and as the specific requirements of UK researchers become known.