



Frequently Asked Questions EGA/GGF Merger

Q1. What is the status of the merger?

A1. The EGA and GGF signed a definitive agreement to merge on June 26, 2006, creating the Open Grid Forum (OGF).

Q2. Why was this name selected?

A2. Open Grid Forum was chosen to represent the promising future we hope to build together. OGF was selected based on a few simple criteria. We wanted a name that was (1) respectful of our successful history; (2) descriptive of our future promise; and (3) simple and straightforward from both an international and URL perspective.

Open Grid Forum captures the potential of our new organization to bring the grid community together - to share ideas, workshop solutions and deliver open standards that accelerate grid adoption. As an "Open Forum" for "Open Standards", the name reinforces our strong desire to base our work on open deliberations and processes. It is inspired by the diversity of our international grid community of architects, builders, users and solution providers as they come together to open new doors to scientific discovery, enterprise business value, and economic and social development.

Q3. What are the goals of the new organization?

A3. Our goals are to deliver faster results, communicate more clearly with the industry and collaborate more effectively with other standards bodies. By retaining the talent base and level of involvement that made the EGA and GGF so successful, the OGF will be able to mature at a fast rate to achieve the desired results.

Q4. Who will lead the new organization?

A4. OGF will be led by Mark Linesch, former chairman of GGF, who will serve as the first President and CEO. He will be responsible for overall leadership of the organization with guidance and support from a soon to be established Board of Directors.

Q5. What are the key characteristics for success of the new organization?

A5. OGF will combine the best characteristics of EGA and GGF as we move forward together as one organization. These include EGA's enterprise expertise and focus on near-term, practical results along with GGF's open and collaborative approach to grid research, best practices and standards development.

During the merger transition, we surveyed hundreds of GGF and EGA members who sent a clear and compelling message regarding the type of organization needed for the marketplace. More than 80 percent of respondents indicated that the support of open standards was critical to their participation. They want the new organization to have a strong focus on grid adoption – bringing key organizations and individuals from the community together to better chart direction and pursue aggressive priorities. Respondents are also excited about the potential to better connect the interests of enterprise, academia and government. Additionally, members cited the importance of working in a collaborative environment with open/democratic processes that can enable them to contribute and make a difference.

Q6. Will OGF have a global focus?

A6. There will be regional functions in OGF and an affiliate program to collaborate with new and existing grid consortia around the world. This international presence will help align OGF with national, cultural and organizational considerations in the regions. The initial regional functions will be headed by Vice Presidents in Europe and Japan.

Q7. What will happen to GGF and EGA technical working groups, their work to date and work in progress?

A7. We intend to continue all technical work. Working groups will be reviewed and encouraged to either continue under their current charters or merge their efforts. Existing specifications will continue to be made available under the new organization name, such as OGF OGSA and OGF Reference Model.

Q8. What is the next milestone for the newly merged organization?

A8. Since our intent-to-merge announcement in February 2006, EGA and GGF have been hard at work executing the merger transition plan. With the legal establishment of the new organization, OGF will spend the summer months completing the merger integration, which includes finalizing the Board of Directors and day-to-day operational leadership; transitioning existing members and recruiting new members to the new organization; and developing and fine-tuning our plans and priorities.

Q9. What is the Membership Program for the new organization?

A9. OGF will have two classes of membership: organizational and individual. Organizational members will contribute to the success of our mission through funding and active participation by their employees and affiliates. Individual members from a variety of non-sponsoring organizations will also contribute by sharing their expertise and actively participating in all levels of the organization.

All members (both organizational and individual) can participate in all activities of the new organization, including leadership of groups and nominations to Area Director, Vice President and At-Large Board of Director leadership positions.

Q10. What can members expect when participating in the new organization?

A10. OGF will balance the requirements of organizational sponsors and individual contributors and create a results-oriented focus with broad participation and mandate from the key stakeholders and the international grid community. We want to ensure that the new organization enables and encourages "grass roots" participation and continues to promote inclusiveness and technical meritocracy.

Leadership including governance, steering and oversight is also critical to the health of the organization and the timely delivery of results. Our intent is to strike the right balance and encourage productive interactions throughout all levels of the new organization based a culture of trust and respect.

Q11. Are existing EGA and GGF members automatically members of the new organization?

A11. Yes, current EGA and GGF members are already members of the new organization. In the next few weeks, organizational members will be sent information via email explaining transition details and outlining the benefits associated with the various tiers of membership. Individual members will be encouraged to register via the Web site to confirm membership, update profiles and activate benefits.

Q12. During the integration phase, what should members continue to do?

A12. As we complete the integration over the next few months, we need to continue the work we are doing in support of our mission together. Existing GGF and EGA leaders will remain in place to facilitate progress during the integration phase. We will continue all technical work and anticipate little if any disruption to group activities. Group chairs and groups will remain in place and we will continue our emphasis on accelerating results.

Q13. Will OGF actively engage end users to join the new organization?

A13. End users are an important community for OGF to actively engage with in support of our mission. OGF will actively pursue participation of end user organizations as sponsors, contributors to our group activities, advisors in our Advisory Committee, and as nominees for leadership positions throughout the organization.

Q14. How do I get more information?

A14. Questions and comments are encouraged and welcomed and can be submitted at www.ogf.org