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- **"FP6 Grid Projects Target a Return on Europe's Research Investment"**
Cordis News Service (09/17/04)

One of the major goals of the European Union's information societies technology program is to build a robust grid research community in Europe, although INRIA's Thierry Priol, coordinator of the CoreGRID Network of Excellence, notes that European investment levels in grid technologies far outweigh the presence of this community. The first injection of EU funding for grid research was a 58-million-euro investment, which doubled to 120 million euros with the segue to the Sixth Framework Program (FP6). "Our mandate [under FP6] is to move grids from the research labs towards applications in business and lay the basis for the next generation of grids," noted Wolfgang Boch with DG Research at the official launching of 12 FP6 grid projects on Sept. 15. One of the projects, a 21-partner initiative called NextGRID, is committed toward developing the building blocks of next-generation commercial grids; David Snelling with Fujitsu Laboratories Europe says the NextGRID consortium had to identify the critical components for enabling future grids, such as security, adaptability, and the maintenance of individual privacy. Snelling asserts that Europe is well positioned to become a commercial grid market leader, although he says that more risk-taking and short-term employment of specially developed grid services should be an industry priority. NextGRID project coordinator Mark Parsons with the University of Edinburgh says the project team will build NextGRID atop current state-of-the-art grid technology, using open standards, and develop applications for business environments such as a grid-based data mining system for managing legal documents within law firms. CoreGRID, which comprises 118 researchers and 163 Ph.D. students in 18 nations, seeks to build a virtual European grid research laboratory with an emphasis on grid middleware and peer-to-peer technologies, to act as a "grid lighthouse" for the rest of the world, according to Priol.