



Ohio rolls out supercomputer

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By Joab Jackson



The Ohio Supercomputer Center has fired up its new IBM-built supercomputer, which officials hope state businesses will use to better compete in the global marketplace.

The clustered computer, an IBM Cluster 1350, has a peak performance exceeding 17 trillion calculations per second, which would rank it as the 65th most powerful supercomputer in the world, when compared with the Top 500 list of the world's most powerful computers. The system cost \$4.4 million, OSC said.

OSC plans to offer use of the computer to Ohio businesses such as Procter and Gamble. The system will allow state businesses both large and small to refine their products to a degree that could not be achieved with in-house resources.

"The new machine will accelerate research in vital areas such as advanced materials, energy, biosciences, manufacturing, defense and aerospace applications," said Stan Ahalt, executive director at OSC, in a statement.

Inside the computer, 877 of the cluster nodes are running dual-socket 2.6-Ghz Opteron multicore processors from Advanced Micro Devices, and are supported by 8G of random access memory. Another 86 nodes are running quad-socket 2.6 Opterons with 16G of memory.

The system also features four IBM blade servers running dual-core IBM cell processors. An additional six nodes are dedicated to accelerated computational work and to log-in duties. All 969 nodes and the blade system are tied together via 10 Gbps Infiniband.

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