WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2008

Good news for Business in New Mexico

In contemplating a move to using HPC to speed up processes in their plants, many businesses are staring at an "expert knowledge gap" that can make them feel like they are trapped at the bottom of a canyon. New Mexico, the state famous for its canyons, has recently launched a collaborative center that can give businesses a hand out of the gap and into profitability. The New Mexico Computing Applications Center(NMCAC)was launched on September 19, 2008 and I had a chance this afternoon to sit down with Dr. Thomas Bowles, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the center & Science Advisor to Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico, and Dr. Lorie Liebrock, the education director at the center to learn more about the services they are offering to manufacturers and other businesses.

The NMCAC is a nonprofit organization which owns its own hardware, Encanto, the 7th fastest computer in the world according to the Top 500 list in June 2008. They provide access to the experts at the 5 founding organizations:University of New Mexico,New Mexico State University,New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology,Los Alamos National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories and to their recently announced partner, Darkstrand. With this combination of resources, the NMCAC sees itself as an HPC Integrator. Although Dr. Bowles credits the Blue Collar Computing Initiative at OSC as a model for the center at its conception 2 years ago, the services are slightly different. NMCAC is giving primary focus to its integrator role, rather than providing HPC SaaS. Just as you might hire an integrator to assist with evaluation, planning and implementation of a new MOM system on the plant floor; you now have access to an HPC integrator who can assist with up front analysis, planning and implementation of your HPC projects.

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