OSC NEWS: 2009-05-19 Supercomputer expansion to benefit Ohio bioscience industry (Accelerating Excellence)

Supercomputer expansion to benefit Ohio bioscience industry

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In late February, the Ohio Supercomputer Center launched a $4 million expansion of its flagship supercomputing system, a strategic addition that will more than double current computing power and memory, significantly increasing the Center's computational capacity dedicated to Ohio's bioscience and research efforts.

The expansion will integrate a new generation of IBM hardware into OSC's IBM Cluster 1350, which became operational in January 2008. Because of the pent-up demand by Ohio researchers for supercomputing access, the new system reached operational capacity in just three months.

This expansion can further propel Ohio to the forefront of biosciences research and job creation," said Stanley Ahalt, executive director of OSC. "With critical supercomputing resources, Ohio researchers can increase the state's share of national bioscience funding.

OSC officials determined that the biosciences would be one of the most productive areas in which the Center could focus investments, collaborations, research and market solutions.

Ohio policymakers in recent years have moved to strategically align Ohio's research and technology portfolio, identifying 12 institutional and industrial platforms most promising for statewide economic impact. Of these dozen platforms, OSC officials determined that the biosciences— along with advanced materials and data exploitation— would be one of the most productive areas in which the Center could focus investments, collaborations, research and market solutions.

"The Ohio Supercomputer Center has fostered close ties with the state's bioscience research community, especially within bioinformatics and biomedical sciences," said BioOhio President & CEO Tony Dennis. "Expanding the availability of high performance computing resources for academic and industry researchers will further Ohio's growth as a national leader in the biosciences."

OSC's partnerships include work with Nationwide Children's Research Institute on the innovative Virtual Microscopy to Microarray cancer identification project, which has garnered national attention. OSC also partners with the Ohio State University Medical Center's Biomedical Informatics Department, working on its caGrid infrastructure and related software, which provides a national network that may speed cancer research discoveries.

Expected to be fully operational by summer, the total expanded system will increase in computing capacity from 22 teraflops to 75 teraflops and nearly triple available memory, from 8.4 terabytes to 24 terabytes.

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http://www.bioohio.com/news/Bio---Bulletin-Newsletter.aspx#4.