



NEWS

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DOE and NNSA Announce Partnership Between Sandia and Cray Inc. for Innovative Supercomputer Supporting Stockpile Stewardship Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Sandia National Laboratories and Cray Inc. signed a contract for a multi-year project, valued at approximately \$90 million, to develop and deliver a massively parallel processing supercomputer for the Advanced Simulation and Computing program (ASCI).

Named “Red Storm,” the supercomputer represents another step forward toward meeting the science-based simulation requirements of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Stockpile Stewardship Program, to assess and certify the safety, security, and reliability of the nation’s nuclear deterrent.

“The Department of Energy has a successful history of advancing high performance technical computing through mutually beneficial partnerships with the U.S. computer industry,” said **Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham**. “Red Storm will serve the nation’s security mission and be instrumental in assuring continued confidence in the nuclear stockpile.”

Acting NNSA Administrator Linton Brooks stated, “Computational modeling and prediction are integral to every activity within Stockpile Stewardship. ASCI’s state-of-the-art computer simulations and supercomputers are fully utilized in our daily stewardship responsibilities. This next supercomputer is an important step towards extending our computational capability and towards meeting computing capacity demands of nuclear weapons stewardship.”

With a theoretical peak performance of 40 trillion operations per second, Red Storm is expected to be operational in Fiscal Year 2004. Red Storm will be the latest in a sequence of world-leading supercomputers following NNSA’s strategy to provide computational capability for simulating complete operations of nuclear weapons and to provide computing resources necessary to ensure the continued health of the nuclear stockpile. NNSA’s ASCI program partners with U.S. computer manufacturers to accelerate the development of the larger, faster computer systems and software needed for the demanding stewardship simulations.

NNSA is a semi-autonomous agency of the DOE. It enhances U.S. national security through the military application of nuclear energy, maintains the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, promotes international nuclear non-proliferation and safety, reduces global danger from weapons of mass destruction, provides the U.S. Navy with safe and effective nuclear propulsion, and oversees national laboratories to maintain U.S. leadership in science and technology.

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