

EU Considers Spend €1 Billion on Supercomputers

Written by Frederick Douglas
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The European Commission has plans for a big joint investment with EU member states-- the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking, a proposal for €1 billion in spending on "world-class European supercomputer infrastructure."



According to the EC, the acquisition of high performance computing (HPC) infrastructure is "crucial" for the competitiveness and Independence of the continent's data economy. After all, the current lack of necessary infrastructure forces European scientists and industry to process data outside the EU, bringing potential threats to privacy, data protection, commercial trade secrets and data ownership, particularly in sensitive applications.

As such, the EuroHPC Joint Understanding will buy, build and deploy two world-class pre-exascale supercomputing machines and "at least" two mid-range supercomputing machines. It will also support a research and innovation programme for the development of both hardware and software making the machines. The infrastructure be available for both the scientific community and industry, particularly SMEs.

The EU will contribute around €486 million (under the current Multiannual Financial Framework), matched by a similar amount from member states and associated countries. In total the EC hopes the program brings about public funding worth €1bn, if not more through contributions from private members, by 2020.

The EuroHPC Joint Undertaking is expected to operate in 2019-2026.

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