



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON



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Governor Richardson Unveils New Mexico's New Supercomputer

World's 3rd Fastest Machine is up and running at Intel

RIO RANCHO – Governor Bill Richardson today unveiled New Mexico's new Supercomputer -- the 3rd fastest in the world. The supercomputer, named "Encanto" which means "enchanted," is housed at Intel Corp. in Rio Rancho.

"New Mexico is serious about developing its high-tech economy," said Governor Bill Richardson. "As news of our Supercomputer spreads, more and more businesses and educational institutions want to work with the state."

Businesses, governments and schools will be able to utilize the new supercomputer. New Mexico's higher education institutions will be connected to the supercomputer via high speed data connections. Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories have signed on as partners in the project.

Supercomputers can help companies develop new products, like more efficient cars or life-saving drugs. Governments can model climate change and ways to conserve energy. And students and faculty can tackle some of the hardest problems facing the country, from water conservation to economic forecasting.

New Mexico's Supercomputer is projected to operate at 172 teraflops per second. One teraflop represents 1 trillion calculations per second. It's powered by 14,336 Intel Xeon processor cores, and has enough memory for 28,000 office computers.

"New Mexico's supercomputer outperformed top machines from around the world to be named 3rd fastest," said Elisa Storie, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Information Technology. "Our supercomputer is currently going through an intensive review to make sure it performs as well as it can."

SGI, a California company, built the Altix ICE system. SGI has an agreement with Intel to house the machine on its campus. The full installation and testing period will take place over the next several months.

“Governor Richardson deserves much credit for having the vision to see the educational and economic development potential of this project,” said Dave Parry, senior vice president and product general manager at SGI. “We at SGI are delighted to be part of the effort, and to be able to deliver a supercomputing and storage solution that will enable engineers and researchers to become productive immediately.”

“The State of New Mexico is making the world’s third fastest supercomputer in the world, the foundation for a new high-tech era. This will create an environment in which businesses, education and the people of New Mexico can prosper,” said Richard Dracott, general manager, Intel High Performance Computing Organization. “This effort is a great example of how a leadership system based on quad core Intel® Xeon® processors is a great investment in the future.”

Rep. John Heaton is carrying a bill this Legislative session that paves the way for the New Mexico Computing Applications Center – a nonprofit corporation which would be able to accept private and public investment, and put the supercomputer to work. The proposed center would provide space for researchers, scientists, students and offer a place to use the supercomputer.

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