future development of HPC in Germany as a whole?

The national strategy based on the so-called "HPC-Pyramid" has proven to be very successful, because it addresses the needs and requirements of the scientists and researchers in Germany very well. You have to look at HPC not only from the perspective of the size of the machines. Put yourself in the position of a scientist or a researcher: You started learning how to use a supercomputer at a university when you were a student. The most important thing at that time was a good teacher and direct access to small supercomputers to try, play, fail, and at the end, to win. Now you are a scientist and your goal is to develop new methods. You have to have simple and easy access to mid-size machines at your location to try out the methods and optimize your codes and therefore you need to run jobs of relevant size. At the end you will need a huge amount of computing time to run the full-blown simulation on the biggest machine you can get access to. Therefore it is important for Germany to maintain und strengthen the strategy of the HPC-Pyramid.

You have been a manager in German Telekom industry. Having moved to a public organization like GCS, what do you see as the most important differences?

The differences are smaller than you might think. Especially within GCS we are dealing with big investments and operation of very complex machines. We are mainly driven by the requirements of scientists and researchers. On the other hand, we have to take care of the interests of the public funding agencies. So we also have customer relations, shareholders, operations, and financials. The structure is quite similar, and even the administrative processes are comparablely complex. The main difference is in the key performance indicators.

Would you still make the same decision today?

Sure

Dr. Müller thank you for the interview.

The Interview was conducted by the inside team.

Dr. Claus Axel Müller is Managing Director of GCS since 2009.

PRACE: Results of the 5th and 6th Regular Calls

The Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe (PRACE) is offering supercomputing resources on the highest level (tier-0) to European researchers.

The Gauss Centre for Supercomputing (GCS) is currently dedicating shares of its IBM Blue Gene/Q system JUQUEEN in Jülich, of its Cray XE6 system Hermit in Stuttgart, and of its IBM iDataPlex system SuperMUC in Garching. France, Italy, and Spain are dedicating shares on their systems CURIE, hosted by GENCI at CEA-TGCC in Bruyères-Le-Châtel, FERMI, hosted by CINECA in Casalecchio di Reno, and MareNostrum, hosted by BSC in Barcelona.

The 5th call for proposals for computing time closed on 30 May 2012. Nine research projects have been awarded a total of about 310 million compute core hours on JUQUEEN, ten have been awarded a total of about 160 million compute core hours on Hermit, and eight have been awarded a total of about 200 million compute core hours on SuperMUC for the allocation time period 1 November 2012 to 30 October 2013. Seven of those research projects are from Germany, five are from France, two are from the Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, each, while one is from Belgium.

The 6th call for proposals for computing time on the above systems closed on 14 November 2012. Six research projects have been awarded a total of about 260 million compute core hours on

JUQUEEN, five have been awarded a total of about 160 million compute core hours on Hermit, and ten have been awarded a total of about 200 million compute core hours on SuperMUC for the allocation time period 4 March 2013 to 3 March 2014. Five of those research projects are from Germany, three are from France and Italy, each, two are from Switzerland, and one is from Australia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom, each.

The research projects awarded computing time cover many scientific areas, from Astrophysics to Medicine and Life Sciences. More details, also on the projects granted access to the machines in France, Italy, and Spain, can be found via the PRACE web pages www.prace-ri.eu/ PRACE-5thRegular-Call and www.prace-ri.eu/PRACE-6thRegular-Call

The 7th call for proposals for the allocation time period 3 September 2013 to 2 September 2014 closed 26 March 2013 and evaluation is still under way, as of this writing.

Details on calls can be found on www.prace-ri.eu/Call-Announcements.

- Walter Nadler

  Jülich Supercomputing Centre