



SC11 - Premier International Supercomputing Conference Begins Week of 'Connections' in Seattle

SEATTLE – November 15, 2011 - SC11, the 24th conference in the SC series, opens this week to a record number of attendees in Seattle, WA. The leading international conference on high-performance computing, networking, storage and analysis, SC provides the leading forum for the exchange of information in the global high performance computing community.

"The theme of this year's conference is 'Connecting Communities Through HPC'," says Scott Lathrop, conference General Chair. "SC11 will provide attendees a truly one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect with the best and brightest minds in the high performance computing community. The enormous benefits that supercomputing delivers to governments, businesses, and individuals all over the world is evident in the records that this is breaking, even in a tough economic climate. This year we have a record number of people registered for the Technical Program, a record number of industry and research exhibitors, and a record number of international attendees and exhibitors."

The Technical Program provides fast access to new research results from laboratories and institutions around the world. The Technical Program has always been the foundation of the annual SC conference, with a paper quality and breadth of topics that brings attendees back year after year. The supercomputing community's most established researchers -- and brightest rising stars -- contribute the results of their latest research efforts to the highly competitive, rigorously reviewed Technical Program of tutorials, papers, panels, workshops and posters.

An exciting new element of the Technical Program at SC11, the State of the Practice, provides an opportunity for the discussion and exchange of best practices involving provisioning, using and improving the critical systems and services in high performance computing, networking, and storage. "The State of the Practice will open up the conference Technical Program to a much broader set of conference attendees," notes David Paul, chair of the new activity.

SC11 is also continuing its tradition of responding to the forces shaping our society by taking on many of the issues surrounding management and analysis of the massive amounts of data our society generates each year.

The Data Intensive Science thrust at SC11 brings together research and practice related to managing large data, while the Scientific Visualization Showcase will educate and inspire as it highlights scientific

images and animations created by visualization programmers, animation specialists, and graphic artists in their efforts to help scientists finding meaning in their data using highly engaging, intuitive, and visual images. "We want to show attendees how beautiful science can be, and also highlight the important role that visualization plays in understanding scientific data," observes Kelly Gaither, chair of the SC11 Visualization Showcase.

As the practice of supercomputing advances and becomes more diverse, the conference committee has recognized a need to continue to grow and advance the technical program in ways that enable it to accurately reflect the state of the high performance computing community. This year the committee is extending the conference by a half day, presenting a full program of technical events on the last day of the Conference, Friday, November 18.

In addition to the Technical Program, SC11 has assembled a global Who's Who of industry experts to offer diverse points of view on many of the ideas shaping the future of HPC.

"These speakers are the best and brightest in the world," explains Jim Costa, co-chair the SC11 Technical Program. "Their vision for what our community can become gets attendees thinking, and keeps people talking throughout the year."

Jen-Hsun Huang, a seminal figure in visual and parallel computing, and computing industry leader NVIDIA's co-founder, president and CEO, delivered the SC11 keynote address at the conference this morning. Huang's address launched the official start of the conference technical program at 8:30 a.m. He discussed the scientific milestones and challenges facing supercomputing designers as they pursue the advanced computational needs of the future.

The conference also is hosting the supercomputing industry's largest exhibit floor. The exhibition, which opened Monday, Nov. 14 and concludes Thursday, Nov. 17, features over 300 exhibitors from around the world. Attendees have the unique opportunity to talk with the world's leading users, providers, and researchers in the supercomputing community.

The SC Conference series has always been a rich source for education in the supercomputing community, and this year SC11 offers a unique opportunity for seasoned practitioners and new professionals alike to sharpen their skills through the tutorials program. The SC11 Technical Program Committee has selected 34 half-day and full-day tutorials covering a spectrum of foundation skills, hot topics, and emerging technologies in HPC.

SC11 is also home to one of the most sophisticated computer networks in the world. The network, called SCinet, serves as the platform for exhibitors to demonstrate the latest advancements in computing technology and innovative applications. This year SCinet will feature capacity reaching more than 450 gigabits per second using multiple brand new 100G connections to the major national research networks.

As impressive as the technologies of the supercomputing community are, they are only as effective as the professionals that use them. "SC is as much about people as it is about technology," observes Satoshi Matsuoka, chair of SC11 Communities. "Supercomputers are complex scientific instruments, and we need the talents of many diverse professions to press these technologies into service solving the world's scientific and engineering challenges." SC11 Communities is focused on fostering the next

generation of supercomputing professionals by engaging with students, educators, and researchers to prepare tomorrow's HPC professionals.

Members of the media are invited to visit the conference. The press can attend for free, but must fill out the online press form at sc11.supercomputing.org to attend.

About SC11

SC11, sponsored by the ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) and the IEEE Computer Society, offers a world-class technical program, a comprehensive Communities Program, and an Exhibit Hall that together showcase the latest advances in high performance computing, networking, storage and analysis that are advancing scientific discovery, research, education and commerce. This premier international conference brings together experts from around the world along with people new to the community to share knowledge and information, to form new partnerships and collaborations, and to empower the attendees to enhance their productivity. For more information on SC11, please visit: sc11.supercomputing.org/.

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