PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Peter Ho, Chairman of NSCC Steering Committee
Addresses HPC Future Plans and launches Inaugural NSCC Awards at the
Third Supercomputing Frontiers Conference 2017

The National Supercomputing Centre (NSCC) Singapore aims to underpin the national research infrastructure of Singapore's research innovation and enterprise (RIE2020) masterplan.

14 March 2017, Singapore – Stakeholders of the National Supercomputing Centre (NSCC) Singapore aim to build on its early growth momentum to elevate supercomputing in Singapore into the next phase. This includes dovetailing NSCC's future plans into the S$19 billion national RIE2020 masterplan, said Peter Ho, Chairman of NSCC Steering Committee.

Giving the opening address at the third edition of the Supercomputing Frontiers (SCF) Conference yesterday, Mr Ho observed that "*Singapore is only at the start of developing and implementing a HPC strategic roadmap*".

"*For the NSCC to realise the vision of catalysing supercomputing in Singapore, its team will have to bootstrap on the knowledge and experience of others,*" he added.
The key stakeholders of the NSCC Singapore are the Agency for Science Technology and Research (A*STAR), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), National University of Singapore (NUS), and Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD).

Singapore enters the petascale supercomputing league, first in Southeast Asia

Addressing the objectives of the four-day Conference, Mr Ho said that he hoped that the conference would produce "*rich discussions*". "*It is through such discussions that I hope we will all learn something about what the future holds for supercomputing, and how we can position ourselves, not just in Singapore, but also in our respective countries, to exploit the power of supercomputing to improve competitiveness and the lives of our people.*", Mr Ho added.

One key highlight of the SCF2017 opening ceremony is the launch of the inaugural SCF/NSCC Awards, which aim to promote excellence in High Performance Computing (HPC), networking, storage and visualisation in the areas of Singapore's research, innovation, education and enterprise. This award also aims to give recognition to research and commercial efforts that tap on ASPIRE 1's computational power to drive innovation, raise productivity and improve lives.

Notable winners of the inaugural awards are:

- Supercomputing Frontiers Singapore Distinguished Service Award, Mr. Lim Chuan Poh, Chairman, A*STAR
- Supercomputing Frontiers Singapore Visionary Award, Dr. Raj Thampuran, Managing Director, A*STAR
- NSCC Outstanding HPC Scientific Award – Data Storage Institute, A*STAR
- NSCC Outstanding HPC Industry Application Award – Keppel Offshore and Marine Technology Centre (KOMtech)
  Global Gene Corp Pte Ltd (Honourable Mention)
- NSCC Outstanding HPC Innovation Award - Institute of High Performance Computing
  Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering, Nanyang Technological University (Honourable Mention)

The winners were carefully handpicked through a rigorous process by a seven-member judging panel and received the respective awards from Mr Ho. Other notable award submissions include:

    a. Keppel Offshore & Marine Technology Centre (KOMtech)'s winning project, which made extensive use of NSCC's HPC resources to optimise the designs of rigs and vessels in the product development process.

    b. Tan Tock Seng Hospital's use of HPC technology combined with whole-genome-sequencing to provide useful information for on-the-ground infection control, by determining the transmission routes of bacteria that are invisible to the human eye.

The SCF 2017 is held at the Matrix@Biopolis and is attended by more than 450 participants from 12 countries. The focus on this year's conference is on global trends and innovations in high performance computing.

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About National Supercomputing Centre (NSCC) Singapore

The National Supercomputing Centre (NSCC) Singapore was established in 2015 and manages Singapore's first national petascale facility with available high performance computing (HPC) resources to support science and engineering computing needs for academic, research and industry communities. Funded by its stakeholders, including Agency for Science Technology and Research (A*STAR), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), National University of Singapore (NUS), and Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), with substantial funding from Ministry of Trade and Industry, NSCC's vision is to democratise access to supercomputing, and is catalytic in supporting national research and development initiatives, attracting industrial research collaborations and enhancing Singapore's research capabilities. For more information, please visit https://nscc.sg.

About Supercomputing Frontiers

Organised by National Supercomputing Centre (NSCC) Singapore, Supercomputing Frontiers 2017 (SCF17) is Singapore's annual international conference that provides a platform for thought leaders from both academia and industry to interact and discuss visionary ideas, important global trends and substantial innovations in high performance computing.

About ASPIRE 1

ASPIRE 1 stands for **A**dvanced **S**upercomputer for **P**etascale **I**nnovation **R**esearch and **E**nterprise, Singapore's first petascale supercomputer**.** Launched in December 2016, and rated at 1.01 PetaFLOPS**,** this system comprises 1288 compute servers and 128 gigabytes of memory per server connected by a high-speed supercomputing network of 100 Gbps, connected to a 13-petabyte ultra-fast parallel storage system. Ten percent of the servers are equipped with Graphics Processing

Unit (GPU) accelerators. This facility has visualisation nodes to support local and remote visualisation needs.

About the Awards

The inaugural SCF/NSCC awards aim to promote excellence in High Performance Computing (HPC), in the areas of Singapore's research, innovation, innovation, education and enterprise. The initiative was launched to give recognition to outstanding individuals who have contributed to Singapore's HPC landscape and users of ASPIRE 1 (**A**dvanced **S**upercomputer for **P**etascale **I**nnovation **R**esearch and **E**nterprise), NSCC's petascale supercomputer commissioned last year, aligned with promoting excellence in HPC.