

HPC User Forum Vendor Update

HPE Leadership Looks Forward to Standing Up Its First Exascale Machine

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IN THIS UPDATE

The HPC User Forum was established in 1999 to promote the health of the global HPC industry and address issues of common concern to users. In May 2021, the 76th HPC User Forum took place virtually. This update summarizes a presentation from that virtual conference given by Bill Mannel, Vice President and General Manager of HPC, HPE, and Justin Hotard, Senior VP and General Manager of HPC & Mission Critical Solutions (MCS), HPE, as an update on some of the important projects going on at Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE). Mannel and Hotard had three major topics for this update: ongoing integration with Cray in the wake of the 2019 acquisition, the recent leadership changes at HPE, and the role HPE plays in the emerging exascale environment.



Vendor Update

Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE)

Speakers

Bill Mannel & Justin Hotard

PRESENTATION: HPE VENDOR UPDATE BY BILL MANNEL, VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER OF HPC, HPE, AND JUSTIN HOTARD, SENIOR VP AND GENERAL MANAGER OF HPC & MISSION CRITICAL SOLUTIONS (MCS), HPE

Mannel began by addressing the departure of Pete Ungaro and introducing Justin Hotard, who would be taking on the role as Senior VP and General Manager for HPC & Mission Critical Solutions (MCS). Mannel reports that HPE has achieved full integration with HPE Cray between teams across marketing, sales, engineering, and product management. Not only is there a complete portfolio that HPE can offer to customers, but in this last year alone, HPE and HPE Cray have combined development forces to create new products like their new Apollo Gen10 Plus platforms and expanded functionality on ClusterStor.

HPE teams are also adding new capabilities to their architectures in the form of NVIDIA Grace ARM-based processors such as the Alps system for the Swiss National Supercomputer Center in Zurich and the upcoming Crossroads system bound for DoE's Los Alamos National Laboratory. To Mannel, this ability to introduce new processors, accelerators, and features into existing architectures exemplifies a highly valuable level of scalability that he hopes to carry into the future.

In discussing the future of HPE, Hotard alluded to his own experience with the company: his integral role in the SGI acquisition and integration, his time running the general compute business of HPE, and his work leading business activities in Japan.

Hotard stressed three key principles that he keeps for his team and business. The first is learning. In an industry that involves constant forward thinking and innovation, Hotard believes all must learn together. To Hotard, the joint learning that goes on between ecosystem partners, customers, HPE partners, and HPE is critical to creating the future. The second principle is relentless customer focus. Hotard intends on continuing the emphasis on customer needs and user support set by Ungaro. The final key area is the continued investment in leadership and innovation. Hotard believes that having great assets and technology only lasts as long as investment continues. Hotard stresses that his teams will continue to spend more time pushing the envelope and pushing technologies to support users and allow for more accurate and impactful insights.

CONCLUSIONS AND GOING FORWARD

Looking forward, Mannel discussed the exascale systems that will be coming online beginning this year: Perlmutter (NERSC), Crossroads (LANL), Frontier (ORNL), Aurora (ANL), El Capitan (LLNL), and a system for the EU-based LUMI consortium. Mannel expressed particular enthusiasm regarding Frontier's role as the first US exascale machine. To Mannel, the flexibility and scalability of HPE's platform and its ability to integrate new hardware is highlighted by the wide range of capabilities and support they provide to users.

To Justin Hotard and the HPC leadership team at HPE, exascale is a critical part of their near-term success and the success of all their partners and customers. With six exascale or near-exascale machines due to come on-line this year and a reinvigorated focus on customer support and enablement, HPE and their new leadership team are poised to make tremendous strides in offering flexible, powerful, and innovative compute in 2021. *For more information or to view this and other presentations given at HPC User Forums dating back to 2008, visit www.hpcuserforum.com.*

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