

HYP\_Link

## NVIDIA Acquires SchedMD, Industry Stewards of Slurm

Mark Nossokoff and Jaclyn Ludema  
January 2026

### RECENT DEVELOPMENT

---

[NVIDIA recently announced its acquisition of SchedMD](#), stewards of the Slurm open-source HPC and AI workload management system. NVIDIA indicated it would continue to develop Slurm as open-source, vendor-neutral software as well as support the broader HPC and AI community across diverse operating environments.

### ANALYST COMMENTARY

---

Workload management software, including schedulers, can be as critical to HPC and AI system performance as CPUs, GPUs, memory, and networking. Schedulers are designed to optimally and efficiently utilize hardware resources to minimize queue times and maximize the number of jobs that can be run on a cluster, supporting faster time to science and discovery. Hyperion Research global site survey data identified Slurm as the preferred workload management software with 50% of survey respondents utilizing Slurm, which is also used in half of the top 10 and top 100 systems in the TOP500.

Potential benefits of the NVIDIA acquisition include more tightly integrated workflow tools with the industry's leading AI infrastructure, faster support for new NVIDIA components, and increased investment for HPC and AI workload management software. Concerns that may arise from the HPC and AI community include fears of optimization exclusively for NVIDIA architecture, future monetization of Slurm, potentially more restrictive licensing terms, or even eventual withdrawal from the open-source community.

NVIDIA has been acquiring technology and talent to enhance its HPC and AI system-level capabilities and vertical integration of the AI software stack. Mellanox, Enfabrica, Excelerio, Bright Computing, and Run:AI are but a few examples dating back to 2020 of acquisitions supporting NVIDIA's system-level aspirations. Users may look closely at how NVIDIA evolved the pricing and licensing of Bright Computer software after its acquisition as a model for what may come relative to Slurm. NVIDIA rebranded Bright Cluster Manager as NVIDIA Base Command Manager, bundling it into the NVIDIA AI Enterprise software suite, with bundled subscription pricing incentives.

The impact this acquisition will have on Slurm's dominance as an open-source scheduler remains to be seen. Should the industry perceive an unlevel playing field or less supportive licensing access or terms, competing open-source and commercial workload management software packages such as OpenPBS, PBSPro, Torque, and Moab may see increased adoption.

---

### Copyright Notice

Copyright 2026 Hyperion Research LLC. Reproduction is forbidden unless authorized. All rights reserved. Visit [www.HyperionResearch.com](http://www.HyperionResearch.com) to learn more. Please contact 612.812.5798 and/or email [info@hyperionres.com](mailto:info@hyperionres.com) for information on reprints, additional copies, web rights, or quoting permission.