

Exascale Computing Project: Addressing a National Imperative

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Exascale Computing Project's (ECP) mission is to ensure all the necessary pieces are in place for the nation's first exascale systems. The project is delivering an ecosystem that includes mission critical applications, an integrated software stack, and is working closely with U.S. high performance computing hardware companies to identify and drive the development of advanced computer system engineering and hardware components. All three of these elements are necessary to enable fully functional, capable exascale computing environments, which are critical to national security, scientific discovery, and a strong U.S. economy.

About Exascale and ECP Impacts

The ECP is focused on accelerating the delivery of a capable exascale computing ecosystem that delivers 50x the application performance of the leading 20PF systems and 5x the performance of the world's most powerful supercomputer—the Summit supercomputer at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, supporting applications that deliver high-fidelity solutions in less time and address problems of greater complexity.

Advancing Scientific Discovery

The ECP aims to ensure availability of the exascale computing ecosystem necessary for developing clean energy systems, improving the resilience of our infrastructure, designing new materials that can perform in extreme environments, adapting to changes in the water cycle, developing smaller and more powerful accelerators for use in medicine and industry, and much more. Several projects focus on data-intensive problems to enable effective use of the data streams from powerful scientific facilities, complex environmental genomes, and cancer research (patient genetics, tumor genomes, molecular simulations, and clinical data).

Strengthening National Security

The ECP teams are also developing new applications for supporting the NNSA Stockpile Stewardship Program, which is responsible for maintaining the readiness and reliability of our nuclear weapons systems—without underground testing. Assessing the performance of weapons systems subject to hostile environments and potential threat scenarios exceeds the capabilities of current HPC systems and codes. NNSA application projects are focused on providing the sophisticated modeling and analysis tools needed to sustain the U.S. nuclear deterrence.

Improving Industrial Competitiveness

Exascale systems will be used to accelerate research that leads to innovative products and speeds commercialization, creating jobs and driving US competitiveness across industrial sectors, such as the emerging energy economy. To ensure alignment with US industry needs, the ECP is engaging senior technology decision makers from among the country's most prominent private sector companies.





ECP is structured on the principles of co-design and integration, with three key focus areas



Application Development (AD):

Exascale-capable applications are a foundational element of the ECP and will be the vehicle for delivery of solutions and insights to key national challenges. Problems heretofore intractable will be accessible with ECP applications.

Software Technology (ST):

Applications are built on underlying software technologies. As a result, software technologies play an essential supporting role in application efficacy on computing systems. The ECP's ST research efforts span low-level system software to high-level applications development environments, including the software infrastructure to support large-scale data management and data science for science and national security applications. ST efforts complement and integrate into the broader scientific software ecosystem that includes capabilities from industry and from the U.S. and international HPC R&D community.

Hardware and Integration (HI):

HI ensures a capable exascale computing ecosystem made possible by integrating ECP applications, software, and hardware innovations within DOE facilities. It supports US vendor R&D focused on innovative architectures for competitive exascale system designs, accelerated application readiness through collaboration with ECP partners, a well-integrated and continuously tested exascale software ecosystem deployed at DOE facilities, and training on key ECP technologies to accelerate the software development cycle and optimize productivity of application and software developers.

The ECP is focused on accelerating the delivery of a capable exascale computing ecosystem to provide breakthrough solutions that can address the nation's most critical challenges in scientific discovery, energy assurance, economic competitiveness, and national security. The project is a joint effort of two US Department of Energy (DOE) organizations: the Office of Science and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).



The ECP is led by a team of senior scientists, project management experts and engineers from six of the largest DOE national laboratories. Working together, this leadership team has established an extensive network to deliver a capable exascale computing ecosystem for the nation.



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