

Date: 26 November 2002

To: Simon Szykman, OSTP
From: Frank Sledge, NCO
Subj: HEC "Birds of a Feather" session at SC2002

Simon,

The IEEE Computer Society sponsored the Supercomputing 2002 (SC2002) conference last week (17-22 November) at the Baltimore Convention Center. This is the world's premier conference for high-end computing, and this year drew more than 7,200 attendees from government, industry, and academia. In fact, DoD devoted an entire afternoon track (3 hours total) to their High Performance Computing program alone.

The IWG's High End Computing Coordinating Group (HEC/CG) sponsored a "Birds of a Feather" session on Tuesday afternoon, 19 November, 5:30-7:00 P.M. (These "BOFs" are less formal sessions that require advance approval and announcement overall, but not for individual presentations.) The announcement for the HEC BOF is below:

Federal Funding for High End Computing

In Fiscal Year 2002, the Federal government invested over \$253M in high-end computing (HEC) research and development and \$647M in infrastructure and applications. Similar figures are expected for FY 2003. In this session, Federal HEC agencies will present the next phase of their HEC programs. Each agency will discuss the direction of its HEC efforts that are critical both to expanding current activities in science and defense and to undertaking proposed new initiatives. The presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer period. Agencies participating will include the Department of Defense, Department of Energy Office of Science and National Nuclear Security Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Institute of Standards and Technology, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Science Foundation, and the National Security Agency.

NCO coordinated the BOF, and I was the session chair. We anticipated 50-100 people, and allowed each of the eight presenters a 10-minute time slot (roughly 7 minutes for presentation, 3 for questions), plus 10 minutes for overrun. In fact, we counted over 125 attendees. Although there were no questions from the audience, nearly everyone stayed for the full duration. In addition, the presentations were very professional, since the agencies needed only to select from their existing budget and project material. All of the presentations are now being put onto the NCO public web site.

Response from the audience seemed to be quite positive, and afterwards, the agency presenters said that this had been a good way to get their information out to the right audience very efficiently. When the HEC/CG reconvenes (in December or January), a priority item will be to consider making the SC 200x BOF an annual event.