GENCI and Inria awarded AMD donation of hybrid computing resources to accelerate research against COVID-19

Paris, November 11, 2020 - As part of the AMD-COVID-19 HPC Fund supporting global research teams fighting against COVID-19 pandemic, chipmaker AMD has just announced a second phase of donation of computing resources to 21 institutions and international academic sites. In France, GENCI and Inria were chosen to receive the solution offered by AMD.

The donation with a computing capacity of over half a petaflop/s (FP64), will be provided in the form of a complete cluster of hybrid compute nodes equipped with AMD Radeon Instinct™ MI50 GPUs and 2nd Gen AMD EPYC™ CPUs. With this donation, AMD wishes to accelerate the efforts already undertaken by GENCI and Inria against COVID-19.

"GENCI and its partner Inria are delighted and honored to receive AMD's donation to help researchers continue their fight against COVID-19" jointly declared **Philippe Lavocat, CEO of GENCI** and **Jean-Frédéric Gerbeau, Deputy CEO for Science at Inria.**

Since March 2020, GENCI has made available to researchers fighting against Covid-19, its national and European resources (through PRACE) in HPC, AI and data storage (Occigen, Joliot-Curie and Jean Zay supercomputers).
To date, more than 40 global research projects on COVID-19, ranging from epidemiologic studies, process of virus replication inside our cells, massive screening of molecules to high precision CFD simulations of the spread of droplets have benefited from computing hours and support by GENCI.

Similarly, Inria set up from march 2020 an internal mission to support the launch of some thirty projects against COVID-19, in cooperation with stakeholders in the health crisis (clinicians, epidemiologists, hospitals, public authorities). Some of these projects have

implemented Artificial Intelligence methods requiring significant computing resources (deep learning for the analysis of chest imaging, automatic processing of medical reports, etc.).

The AMD system, which will be integrated into the national GRID'5000/SILECS infrastructure on the École Normale Supérieure de Lyon site, will be accessible to users of the French scientific research community with preparatory access beginning of 2021. It will make available 10 2nd Gen AMD EPYC single-socket nodes, each configured with 8 Radeon MI50 GPUs, or 80 Radeon MI50 GPUs in total, interconnected by an Infiniband HDR network. Installation and configuration support will be provided by Penguin Computing in cooperation with Inria.

> *"We are proud to be partnering with GENCI and Inria to help equip researchers with the technology needed to fight COVID-19,"* **said Mario Silveira, Corporate VP EMEA and Managing Director, AMD France.** *"With the power of 2nd Gen AMD EPYC processors and Radeon MI50 GPUs, the French scientific research community will be able to run multiple simulations with a superior foundation for their work."*

About GENCI
GENCI is a French civil society owned 49% by the State represented by the Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur de la Recherche et de l'Innovation (MESRI), 20% by CEA, 20% by CNRS, 10% by the Universities represented by the Conférence des Présidents d'Université and 1% by Inria. Created in 2007 by the French public authorities, GENCI aims to place France among the leading European countries and on the international stage of HPC and AI. In this context, GENCI's mission is to implement the French national strategy by equipping the three national centers (CINES for French Universities, TGCC for CEA and IDRIS for CNRS) with HPC equipments and massive data storage resources in order to support open scientific research, to contribute to the construction of an integrated European HPC ecosystem and, to promote digital simulation through high performance computing and the use of artificial intelligence within academic and industrial research communities. www.genci.fr

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About Inria
Inria is the French national research institute for digital science and technology. World-class research, technological innovation and entrepreneurial risk are its DNA. In 200 project teams, most of which are shared with major research universities, more than 3,500 researchers and engineers explore new paths, often in an interdisciplinary manner and in collaboration with industrial partners to meet ambitious challenges.
As a technological institute, Inria supports the diversity of innovation pathways: from open source software publishing to the creation of technological startups (Deeptech).

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