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NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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NOAA ANNOUNCES \$368 MILLION CONTRACT WITH RAYTHEON CORPORATION FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has awarded a contract to Raytheon Company for high performance computing resources necessary to support continued advances in NOAA's environmental modeling capabilities. Raytheon Information Systems is located in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The total ceiling value of the contract inclusive of all options is \$368 million.

This contract marks a new approach to NOAA's high performance computer management by procuring the services for all NOAA applied research and development high performance computing requirements. A primary goal of the new approach is to achieve economies of scale in conducting the high performance computing system acquisition while providing maximum flexibility in the resulting services.

"NOAA's ability to predict changes in the Earth's environment relies on ready access to a diverse set of environmental models which require substantial computer resources," said retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "This holistic approach to our high performance computing needs will ensure we have the tools available for all our scientists and provide those tools in a cost effective manner."

The contract consists of a three-year base period, a four-year option period, and a one-year option to provide for contract transition. NOAA expects initial delivery of the distributed high performance computing system in October 2006. Key components of NOAA's high performance computing requirements include:

- Large-scale computing, large-scale data post-processing, analysis, and visualization capabilities. The research and development workload is comprised of computationally intensive environmental modeling applications coupled to input/output intensive codes and extensive data storage.
- A hierarchical storage management system to provide archiving capacity to meet the expected rates of data production on the high performance computing system.

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- Software for resource management, system administration and application development.
- Support services including system administration, software engineering and system maintenance.
- High availability of the system to continue NOAA's historically high utilization of its computing resources.

Computer models are developed through research and development efforts within NOAA at three primary organizations; NOAA Research's Earth System Research Laboratory/Global Systems Division, NOAA's National Weather Service National Centers for Environmental Prediction and NOAA Research's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory.

Environmental modeling is vital to the daily operation of many other NOAA laboratories. NOAA organizations such as the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Climate Diagnostics Center, Aeronomy Laboratory and Air Resources Laboratory use models for study of atmosphere, ocean, climate, air quality and ecosystem behavior.

Models developed on this system will be transitioned to operational weather and climate models to improve the nation's weather forecasts including hurricane forecasts and severe weather forecasts, to improve seasonal drought forecasts, and to reduce the uncertainties in long range climate predictions.

NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of the nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, 61 countries and the European Commission to develop a global network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>