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To: csiro-all@its.csiro.au
Subject: High–Performance Computing and Communications Centre
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NOTE TO ALL STAFF:

I am delighted to be able to announce that today, Dr John Zillman,
Director of the Bureau of Meteorology and I signed an agreement to
establish and operate a High-Performance Computing and
Communications Centre.

I have strongly supported the establishment of this outstanding facility to
ensure that our computing and communications facilities are at the
leading-edge – this facility will rank within the top 100 commercially
available systems at international research organisations.

Under the collaborative arrangement, CSIRO and the Bureau have
contributed half the costs each and will have equal access to a world-class
supercomputing system to be supplied by NEC – the initial configuration,
to be fully operational in October this year, will be around 32 Gigaflop/s
and will be upgraded subsequently to over 100 Gigaflop/s.

The Centre will have another system from Silicon Graphics/CRAY which
will provide an upgraded mass storage facility connected to the NEC
system. It will also allow users of the current CSIRO Supercomputing
Facility to make a more effective transition to the NEC system.

CSIRO users will gain access to these facilities through AARNet2. The
network link between the AARNet2 Victorian Regional Network and the
Centre will be upgraded to support high-bandwidth connections for users.

We will continue to provide high level professional support for users
through a Support Group, with staff from CSIRO and the Bureau.

You are encouraged to take advantage of these facilities by contacting
Robert Bell, CSF Manager (ph: 03 9282 2620; email:
robert.bell@cmis.csiro.au).

NEC will announce the acquisition in a media release tomorrow (23 July).

We are planning a major opening of the Centre later in the year.

Malcolm McIntosh