Press Release

Preliminary Use Program of the Supercomputer Fugaku
Selection Results for Pilot Study Projects Announced, and
Call for Startup Preparation Projects Opening on October 1

The call for Pilot Study Projects, which access the supercomputer Fugaku[*1] in the trial phase[*2], was open between August 4 and August 27, 2020. After going through screening process, thirty projects have been awarded.

The initial schedule was to take around fifteen projects considering the limit of available resources during the system adjustment phase. However, with increase of computational resources provided, it was decided to award projects with prospect of starting smoothly and accomplishing research achievements early on as many as possible. Awarded projects will be carried out with looking ahead to full-fledged use of Fugaku in Japanese Fiscal 2021.

In addition, the call for Startup Preparation Projects, another project category that access Fugaku in the trial phase, will open at 10 AM, October 1 (JST). Unlike Pilot Study Projects, selection process will take place per proposal in the order of submission, and the call is scheduled to open until around March 2021.

Research Organization for Information Science and Technology (RIST, President Yasuhide Tajima) is the Registered Institution for Facilities Use Promotion (the Registered Institution) based on the "Act on the Promotion of Public Utilization of the Specific Advanced Large Research Facilities". RIST solicits proposals for projects in Preliminary Use Program, which access a share of computational resources of the supercomputer Fugaku.

As a part of the program, the call for Pilot Study Projects opened on August 4 and closed on August 27. After the screening process by experts of respective fields, thirty projects were awarded. The selection results have been published in the HPCI portal site[*3].

● Selection Result of Fugaku Preliminary Use Projects (Pilot Study)

	Awarded Projects
Fugaku Preliminary Use Projects (Pilot Study)	30

In addition, the call for Startup Preparation Projects will open as in the following schedule.

● Call for Proposals for Fugaku Preliminary Use Projects (Startup Preparation)

	Call Opening
Fugaku Preliminary Use Projects (Startup Preparation)	Call opens 10 AM, October 1, 2020 (JST) *Proposals will be accepted until March 2021 (scheduled)

(*1) Supercomputer Fugaku

The supercomputer Fugaku is being co-developed by RIKEN and Fujitsu under the project for the development of the innovative High-Performance Computing Infrastructure (HPCI) promoted by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

Fugaku took first place on Top500 list, a ranking of the world's fastest supercomputers, on June 22, 2020, at ISC 2020 Digital. It also gained top spot on the other rankings of supercomputer performance: HPCG, a ranking of supercomputers running real-world applications; Graph 500, which ranks systems based on data-intensive loads; and newly added HPL-AI, which ranks supercomputers based on their performance capabilities for tasks typically used in artificial intelligence applications.

It has been the first time in nine years that Japanese supercomputer took the first place in TOP500 since K computer. Moreover, this is the world's first record that these four titles are taken by the same supercomputer at the same time. For more details, please refer to RIKEN Center for Computational Sciences website (https://www.r-ccs.riken.jp/en/fugaku/).

(*2) Fugaku Preliminary Use Program

In accordance with the basic policy of MEXT, call for projects of this program are open to the public, targeting projects that access Fugaku in the trial phase before starting the full-fledged access scheduled in the Fiscal Year 2021. There are two project categories: (1) Pilot Study Projects that will start researches early on, and (2) Startup Preparation Projects that will work on preparatory activities before full-fledged access, such as software verification, porting, and tuning. Through this program, RIST aims to expand the user base of Fugaku.

See https://www.hpci-office.jp/pages/e_fugaku_prelim for details.

(*3) HPCI portal site https://www.hpci-office.jp/folders/english

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