April 14, 2020
Representative organization for "HPCI Operation" commissioned by MEXT
Research Organization for Information Science and Technology

World top class HPCI[*1] supercomputer resources will be provided to researchers for the fight against COVID-19

There is an urgent need for a wide range of researchers in areas like bioinformatics, drug discovery and epidemiology to fight against COVID-19. Contribution of supercomputers with ultrafast computing capability and massive amount of computational capacity is expected.

The innovative High-Performance Computing Infrastructure (HPCI), supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), is a Japanese powerful research infrastructure that connects the world's leading advanced supercomputers of national universities and research institutions with high speed network.

In cooperation with the universities and research institutions, HPCI will start an urgent call for proposals which needs supercomputer resources for COVID-19 research. Supercomputer resources with a cumulative performance of 114 PFLOPS[*2] will be provided free of charge to researchers, regardless of the academic or industry[*3] field. We expect to contribute to COVID-19 pandemic control.

Research Organization for Information Science and Technology (President Masahiro Seki), as the Representative for HPCI Operation commissioned by MEXT, will open, on 15 April 2020, an urgent call for proposals of the fight against COVID-19 using the HPCI shared computational resources.

The outline and schedule of the call for proposals are as follows. Detailed information will be posted on the HPCI portal site (https://www.hpci-office.jp/).

＜Available HPCI supercomputers＞

	Organizations	Supercomputers
1	Information Initiative Center, Hokkaido University	Grand Chariot / Polaire
2	Cyberscience Center, Tohoku University	Vector type supercomputer/ Parallel computer
3	Center for Computation Sciences, University of Tsukuba	Cygnus
4	Joint Center for Advanced High Performance Computing (JCAHPC)	Oakforest-PACS
5	Information Technology Center, The University of Tokyo	Oakbridge-CX
6	Global Scientific Information and Computing Center, Tokyo Institute of Technology	TSUBAME3.0
7	Information Technology Center, Nagoya University	Type I Subsystem （FX1000）
8	Academic Center for Computing and Media Studies (ACCMS), Kyoto University	System A (Camphor2)
9	Cybermedia Center, Osaka University	Vector type supercomputer/ PC cluster
10	Research Institute for Information Technology, Kyushu University	Supercomputer system ITO
11	Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology	Earth Simulator
12	National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology	AI Bridging Cloud Infrastructure (ABCI)

＜Summary of call for proposals＞

- Name of the Call for Applications: HPCI urgent call for fighting against COVID-19
- Project Theme: Projects requiring computational resources that contribute to research on COVID-19 control (bioinformatics, drug discovery, epidemiology , etc.)
- Eligibility: Those who conduct research on the fight against COVID-19 (regardless of affiliation in the academic or industrial[(*3)] field)
- Resources: As shown in the table above
- Period: Up to 6 months from the start of use to the end of March 2021
- Usage charge: Free
- Publication of research achievement: Submission of user report. The submitted report will be published on the HPCI portal site.

＜Schedule for call for proposals＞
- Start date of Call for proposals (application distribution date): Wednesday, April 15, 2020

（*1）HPCI (The innovative High-Performance Computing Infrastructure)

As shown in the figure below, HPCI is a research platform that connects supercomputers and other equipment installed at national universities and research institutions with a high-speed network (SINET5*) to realize an innovative shared computational environment that accommodates diversified needs of the users. Its operation has started since the end of September 2012.

*Note) SINET (Science Information NETwork) is Japanese academic backbone network provided and operated by the National Institute of Informatics. It provides advanced networks to universities and research institutes, and interconnects with many overseas research networks. SINET5 began operations in April 2016, and it replaces the previous SINET4.
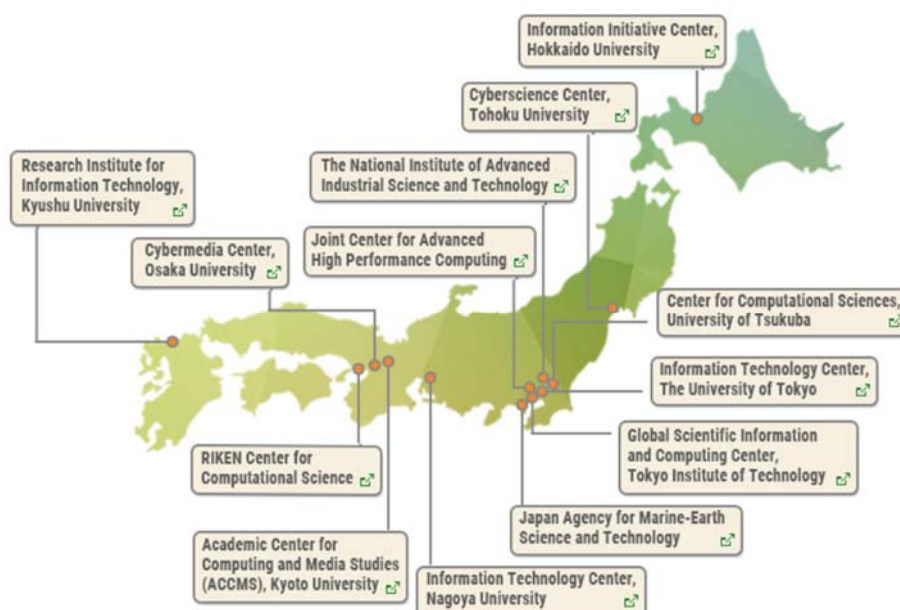
For more information about HPCI, please visit the HPCI portal site. https://www.hpci-office.jp/folders/english

（*2）Total theoretical performance as of April 2020

PFLOPS is one of the units indicating the processing performance of a computer, and is a unit indicating that a floating-point operation is performed 1000 trillion times per second.

（*3）The project representative must be the person who belongs to a company registered in Japan

◆**Contact information**

Kobe Center, Research Organization for Information Science and Technology

Public Relations Division: E- mail: koho@hpci-office.jp

Help Desk: E-mail: helpdesk@hpci-office.jp