



TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH

EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY FOR THE NEW LEONARDO SUPERCOMPUTER

Announced in October, during an online meeting open to the media, the award of the contract for the supply of the technological components of Leonardo, the new high performance supercomputer that will be installed in 2021 at the Tecnopolo in Bologna, to the European company Atos. The computer will be one of the nodes of a European distributed computing network that will take shape in the coming years. The Cineca consortium, in collaboration with INFN and the International School of Advanced Studies (SISSA) and with the support of the Ministry of University and Research (MUR) and the Regione Emilia Romagna, is responsible for the management of Leonardo, as well as being its creator. Leonardo, the construction of which was approved in June of last year by the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking, a European body aimed at promoting the development of a network of supercomputers, will be characterised by high performance, being able to perform almost 250 billion operations per second (250 petaFlops). A capacity 10 times greater than the current Marconi100 calculator available to Cineca. The project is part of the first phase of the Euro HPC initiative, which aims to build one of the best performing computing infrastructures in existence through the installation of three pre-exascale class computers in three European cities. In addition to the 120 million allocated by the European Commission, Leonardo will benefit from a further 120 million provided by the MUR. The positive repercussions from exploiting Leonardo's computing capabilities will also provide important benefits in basic research. ■