Positive news for Intel - Bull First Again with Successful Port of AIX 5L to a 16-Way Intel Itanium Processor-based Server

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LONDON, Sept. 22, 2000 - Showing further evidence of its industry-leading expertise in performance, reliability and scalability of e-infrastructure servers, Bull announced today that it is the first vendor to have successfully ported and run AIX®5L on a 16-way Intel® Itanium processor-based server.

This achievement is another industry first, following Bull's June announcement of the world's first successful porting of AIX to an 8-way IA-64 server by its R&D teams in Echirolles near Grenoble and Les Clayes-sous-Bois near Paris.

Today's announcement reaffirms Bull's position as the industry leader for scalability, workload management and performance in the IA-64 arena. Bull continues to be committed to the AIX operating system as the leading UNIX operating system for enterprise users on both Power PC and IA-64 platforms.

"This successful port and our ongoing work with our software partners clearly demonstrates our technical expertise and our commitment to the latest evolutions in the IA-64 arena," said Mike Naylor, Open Systems Manager at Bull. "Our goal is to deliver scalable e-infrastructures for the most demanding applications as soon as Itanium becomes commercially available."

"Bull's achievement in demonstrating AIX 5L on an IA-64 system shows its determination to become a major player in the 'scale up' story for IA64 based servers," said Martin Hingley, vice president, European systems group, IDC. "It has already a long history of providing clustered SMP machines and has contributed important components to IBM's AIX operating system over the years. With its Application Solution Center, Bull is also helping with the conversion of leading ISV software to IA-64. Getting suitable software in place early on is vital to the success of IA-64 servers."

"We are very pleased with Bull's contribution and their pioneering work in developing and improving scalability of AIX 5L," said Ross Mauri, vice president, UNIX software, IBM Corporation. "We value our long-lasting relationship with Bull on AIX for Power PC and we look forward to continuing it with AIX for IA-64."

Bull a major main contributor for scalability and workload management

AIX 5L derives from the Project Monterey UNIX operating system initiative led by IBM, Intel and SCO and supported by key OEMs such as Bull to extend the enterprise strengths of AIX to the Intel IA-64 architecture.

Bull's main contribution to the AIX 5L operating system is in the development of its scalability and workload management capabilities. Bull has been a significant contributor to prior versions of AIX in partnership with IBM.

"Our active participation in the evolution of AIX will enable our customers and partners to deploy their

mission-critical applications on an increasingly wide range of infrastructures including both the Power PC and IA-64 and also leverage applications written for Linux," added Naylor. "This firmly positions AIX as the leading UNIX operating system for enterprise customers."

Helping customers and ISVs benefit from IA-64

Bull's ASC (Application Solution Center) is available to customers and partners to help them with IA-64 porting operations. The center, equipped with the latest Intel server technology and staffed by highly qualified specialists with the necessary methodologies, provides the ideal conditions for analyzing, adapting, configuring, porting and optimizing software for IA-64. Porting expertise is available for AIX 5L, 64-bit Windows 2000 and 64-bit Linux.

About Bull

Bull, the international IT Group, operates in more than 100 countries. In 1999, the company earned revenues of º3.8 billion, with over 65% of this total generated outside of France, its country of origin.

Bull's strategy is focused on the Internet and electronic business in three key domains:

-Solutions with consulting and systems integration

-Infrastructure including 'Internet ready' enterprise systems, Smart Cards and software for secure infrastructure management

-Managed services for Intranets and e-commerce sites and marketplaces

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