MHPC 2015 set to go!

Major companies and great guests for MHPC 2015

14 September 2015

Classes of the 2015/16 edition of the Master in High Performance Computing (MHPC) of SISSA/ICTP are starting today, and important news and events have been announced: in February 2016 a workshop featuring renowned guests will be held, and the Erasmus Plus partnership with the University of Ulm in Germany is confirmed, which will allow student exchanges between Italy and Germany. The Master’s course also announces that this year the involvement and commitment of industry and research organisations have increased and now guarantee, amongst others, financial coverage of all the scholarships available for this year’s students.

This number of enrolments for MHPC 2015 has not just repeated but actually exceeded last year’s success: 160 applications have been received this year (30 of which Italian), and among them 12
high-profile students have been chosen who will be officially starting classes today, Monday September 14th.

Among this year’s sponsors we still find leading names: major companies like Generali and Fincantieri, leading research institutions like the National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (OGS) and the National Research Council (CNR), and leaders of the HPC sector such as DDN Storage. This year has also seen the growing interest and commitment of research organizations and industry towards MHPC, which means that scholarships covering the cost of the Master’s course have been granted to all the students who applied for them (more than that, there were more companies than students applying so some surplus scholarships could not be allocated).

Another novelty is the Erasmus Plus partnership with the University of Ulm in Germany. This will allow some students to spend a period of time abroad, and reflects the growing internationalization of the Master’s course. Students from the University of Ulm will be coming to Trieste to work on their master’s dissertation (we have already received several applications).

A Workshop in February

MHPC is launching the HPC-TS workshop to be held from 24 to 26 February 2016, which will see the participation of speakers of international standing. Among them, Wolfgang Bangerth, from the University of Austin (USA) and author of the DEALII package, a library for fluid dynamics calculations and Jack Dongarra, “distinguished professor” (a title given to scientists who have distinguished themselves for their outstanding scientific production) from the University of Tennessee, one of the leading world experts of High Performance Computing and curator of the TOP500 six-monthly ranking of the most powerful supercomputers in the world.

The workshop aims to publicize the master’s course internationally among potential future students, expand the community that surrounds MHPC and increase awareness among the “computing” communities (especially in industry) that today training in supercomputing is absolutely vital.

More in detail

Supercomputing is a fundamental tool in modern science: at SISSA, for example, it has allowed researchers to study new nano-materials by using quantum simulations or to model the structure of the primordial universe. Alongside its use in basic research, supercomputing also has
applications in technology: it can help to design the hull of a cruise ship and subject it to a series of tests before actually building it, so as to uncover in advance any structural faults that would undermine its efficiency and safety. But it can also be used to produce special effects for the cinema, which would otherwise be impossible, or forecast the weather for the next few days with greater precision. And it can do a lot more than that: that of High Performance Computing (HPC) is an expanding field that is unaffected by crises and that offers excellent occupational and professional prospects, and the MHPC is the master’s course that trains the future professionals of this field.

The MHPC is organized by two world-renowned centres of excellence, the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) of Trieste and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics Abdus Salam (ICTP) of Trieste which guarantee its top-level quality and international standing. The excellence of the Master’s course is confirmed by the teaching faculty, all experts from the academic world or from leading international companies such as INTEL and NDVIDIA, and the use of teaching methods prioritize practical aspects, encouraging students to try their hand at real-world professional problems and activities through hands-on tasks.

USEFUL LINKS:

• MHPC website: http://mhpc.it/

IMAGES:

• Credits: SISSA

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