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The Cyprus Institute and University of Illinois partner on computation-based research centre

In the presence of the Minister of Education and the US Ambassador, the Cyprus Institute and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, recently signed a research and educational collaboration agreement for the development of the Computation-based Science and Technology Research Centre (CaSToRC) of the Cyprus Institute.

The agreement formalises a collaborative engagement that started two years ago and which already covers numerous research programmes in visualisation, climate modelling and scientific simulations.

The CaSToRC is developing into a regional leader in computational science, engineering, and technology research. The centre will provide high-performance computing resources to researchers in Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean region, as well as offering research and educational programmes. CaSToRC is leveraging the University of Illinois world renowned NCSA's (National Centre for Supercomputing Applications) expertise in designing and operating supercomputing centres and installing, operating, and delivering groundbreaking science using high performance computing. NCSA is helping plan the centre's first supercomputer, its data centre, and its education and research programmes.

The agreement formalises the establishment of joint research and educational programmes, the sharing of faculty and students, beginning with doctoral students conducting research at the University of Illinois and the Cyprus Institute.

"The Cyprus Institute is an important cornerstone of Illinois' global foot print, addressing the issue of high performance computing, visualisation and societal impact, we value greatly the strengths that the Cyprus Institute offers," said Prof. Ravi K. Iyer, Vice-Chancellor of Research at the University of Illinois.

HIGH TECH: ***Prof. C. Alexandrou, Prof. C. N. Papanicolas and Prof. R. K. Iyer***

It is anticipated that by next year CaSToRC will be home to tens of teraflops of computing power (each "teraflop" is one thousand billion calculations every second) and by 2013, it will be home to hundreds of teraflops of computing power. These resources will be used to tackle critical research questions in environmental science and engineering, digital cultural heritage, bioinformatics, scientific computing, and other basic sciences.

"CaSToRC is the first centre of its kind in the Eastern Mediterranean-providing the indispensible computing resources researchers need to be at the forefront of science and engineering today. Collaboration with Illinois, a renowned leader in high performance computing will be a catalyst in enabling Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean research community to pursue cutting edge computing related research," said Prof. Costas N. Papanicolas, the President of the Cyprus Institute.

The signing ceremony was addressed by the Minister of Education, Prof. Andreas Demetriou, by Prof. Ravi K. Iyer, Interim Vice-Chancellor for Research of UIUC, Prof. Costas. N. Papanicolas, President of the Cyprus Institute and Prof. C. Alexandrou of the University of Cyprus and Chair of CaSToRC's Interim Governing Board.