

IBM to Acquire System Software Company Platform Computing to Extend Reach of Technical Computing

Industry-leading management software to help clients accelerate product development, simulations and analytics

ARMONK, N.Y. - 11 Oct 2011: IBM (NYSE: [IBM](#)) today announced it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Platform Computing, a privately held company headquartered in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Platform Computing is a global leader in cluster and grid management software for distributed computing environments. The acquisition is anticipated to close in the fourth quarter of 2011, subject to the satisfaction of closing conditions. Financial terms were not disclosed. From departmental clusters to enterprise grids, Platform Computing management software helps clients create, integrate and manage shared computing environments that are used in resource-intensive applications such as simulations, computer modeling and analytics. These technical and high performance computing (HPC) applications fuel product development, critical business decisions and breakthrough science in financial services, manufacturing, digital media, oil and gas, life sciences, government, and research and education.

Across enterprises of all sizes, application complexity and the amount of data continue to grow significantly, driving the need for more and more compute capacity. By combining Platform Computing's software with IBM high performance systems and software, IBM can better serve enterprise clients who are turning to technical computing to reduce the cost and complexity of managing and analyzing massive amounts of data in a timely fashion.

The combined opportunity for servers, storage and systems software for technical computing is over \$14 billion in 2011 and is expected to grow over 8 percent annually to \$18.5 billion by 2014, according to IDC (1).

"IBM considers the acquisition of Platform Computing to be a strategic element for the transformation of HPC into the high growth segment of technical computing and an important part of our smarter computing strategy," said Helene Armitage, general manager, IBM Systems Software.

"This acquisition can be leveraged across IBM as we enhance our IBM offerings and solutions, providing clients with technology that helps draw insights to fuel critical business decisions or breakthrough science."

Platform Computing currently serves over 2,000 clients including 23 of the top 30 largest global enterprises. Example customers include CERN, Citigroup, Infineon, Pratt & Whitney, Red Bull Racing, Sanger Institute, Statoil and University of Tokyo.

"Platform Computing's software has a proven track record over the past 19 years of helping clients to accelerate innovation, business analytics and IT services while being easy to deploy and manage," said Dr. Songnian Zhou, CEO, Platform Computing. "Our market-leading software has enabled broad adoption of commodity clusters and enterprise grids around the world. This acquisition will enable Platform Computing to better serve our customers by leveraging the IBM solution portfolio and extend the reach of our pioneering distributed computing software for broader enterprise adoption."

Platform Computing's focused technical and distributed computing management software suite complements IBM's high-performance platforms including System x®, BladeCenter®, Power Systems™ and System Storage®, as well as the IBM software portfolio, including Tivoli® management and WebSphere® application infrastructure.

Platform Computing's operations as of the closing will be integrated into IBM Systems and Technology Group. Platform Computing has approximately 500 employees worldwide.

The acquisition of Platform Computing will help accelerate IBM's growth in smarter computing, a key initiative in IBM's Smarter Planet strategy. Earlier this year, IBM said Smarter Planet projects are estimated to drive \$10 billion in revenue for IBM by 2015.

Platform Computing's extensive network of ISVs, OEMs and others provides IBM with the opportunity to deliver distributed computing management software to a broader set of clients while supporting Platform Computing's existing clients.

About IBM

For more information about IBM technical computing solutions, visit www.ibm.com/deepcomputing
To learn more about IBM smarter computing, visit www.ibm.com/smartercomputing

About Platform Computing

Platform Computing is a leader in cluster and grid management software — serving more than 2,000 of the world's most demanding organizations. For 19 years, its workload and resource management solutions have delivered IT responsiveness and lower costs for enterprise and HPC applications. Visit www.platform.com.

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Footnote:

(1) Source: IDC HPC User Forum meeting, April 2011, Houston, Texas

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