

Nvidia-led team gets US\$25 mil. from US military to develop super chip

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AFP

SAN FRANCISCO -- Nvidia on Monday said it is leading a team awarded US\$25 million by Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to create a chip that leaves today's super computers in the dust. The Nvidia team was one of four granted DARPA research contracts aimed at making supercomputers a thousand times more powerful with technology from graphics processing units (GPUs) used to power realistic videogame action.

Graphics chips (GPUs) break complex tasks into parts and handle them simultaneously while central processing units typically used in computers tend to projects in sequence, working from start to finish in order. "This recognizes Nvidia's substantial investments in the field of parallel processing and highlights GPU computing's position as one of the most promising paths to exascale computing," said Nvidia chief scientist Bill Dally.

Nvidia team members include Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee; Seattle-based supercomputer company Cray Inc., and a set of U.S. universities.

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