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# DARPA Plans 'Exascale' Supercomputer

11 August, 2010, by [ITProPortal Staff](#)

The US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) had awarded a \$100 million grant to IT giants, commissioning them to build a new breed of supercomputer.

The US Department of Defence has provided the grants a part of the Ubiquitous High Performance Computing (UHPC) program, which is expected to yield results by 2018.

The UHPC program is designed "to create an innovative, revolutionary new generation of [computing systems](#) that overcomes the limitations of current evolutionary approach".

[BBC News](#) reports that Intel, Nvidia, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Computer Science and the [Artificial Intelligence Laboratory](#), and Sandia National Laboratory, Georgia Institute of Technology have been given the task of developing 'exascale' [supercomputers](#) capable of performing a quintillion calculations per second.

Current supercomputers make around 1000 trillion calculations per second.

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DARPA representatives said that the supercomputers will be used to analyse and store all the data that the US military is expected to gather in the future.

The computers will be designed to overcome the limitations poised by current supercomputing technology.

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