Minister Remisova: Supercomputers will help Slovak companies and public sector

Ministry of Informatization Stands at the Birth of National Supercomputing Centre

Slovakia has the opportunity to use supercomputers for the benefit of commercial, research and the public sector. Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization (MIRRI) of the Slovak Republic announced that together with the Centre of Operations of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) and I4DI (Innovations for Digital Infrastructure), they have established National Supercomputing Centre (NSCC) to cover activities related to high performance computing (HPC).

"I am convinced that disruptive innovations will be crucial for the future of Slovakia. One of the important tools in their implementation will be supercomputers. So far, only a small group of academics in Slovakia has used them. With the establishment of the National Supercomputing Centre the way is opened for their use in the field of entrepreneurship, research or the public sector. Thanks to the help of supercomputers, Slovak companies will be able to compete locally and globally," said Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Informatization Veronika Remisova.

The scope of the NSCC will include support for projects and investments in the field of HPC, support for researchers, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to gain practical experiences in the field of supercomputers, and last but not least development of supercomputer infrastructure.

"The vision of NSCC as an association of state institutions and the private sector is also to develop a new supercomputer in Slovakia, which would be at a competitive level of performance within European area," emphasised Deputy Prime Minister.

Supercomputers are currently used for HPC, high-volume data processing, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning. NSCC will provide free consultations for SMEs, industrial companies, State institutions and, last but not least academic institutions.

A Supercomputer is any high-performance computer capable of performing a huge number of computations. At a global level, several countries are currently competing to build exaflop computers. That means it can handle more than one trillion computations per second!

"The goal of NSCC is not just to build one supercomputer, but to create an ecosystem of companies and researchers, and make available the already existing HPC capabilities to them," said Radoslav Repa, vice-chairman of the NSCC board and Director General of the Section of Digital Agenda at MIRRI SR. Adrián Vycital from I4DI predicts that NSCC can use one of the fastest microchips in the world currently being developed by Tachyum.

The seat of the NSCC is in the building of SAS Computing Center in Bratislava, where the Aurel supercomputer has already been installed (since 2012) and a team of experts works there to take care of its operation. During the first two years of its activity, Lukáš Demovič, Director of the Centre of Operations of the SAS, will be the Chairman of the Board of the NSCC. The activities of the association will be financed from membership fees - the initial contribution of MIRRI SR is 300 thousand euros.