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Approved for public release 05-MDA-1014 (1 AUG 05)

Press Release, 18-Jul-2005 (v 2)

Missile Defense Agency Awards
Spaceflight Computer Contract to The Right Stuff of Tahoe

MDA, the United States Missile Defense Agency, has contracted with The Right Stuff of Tahoe for a new type of spaceflight computer.

The northern Nevada high-tech firm will develop architectures for fault tolerant multi-computers. In addition to crunching numbers aboard space-based platforms, fault tolerant architectures are enablers for earth-based supercomputing applications in genetics and physics.

Dr. Laurence E. LaForge, President of The Right Stuff of Tahoe, is principal investigator for the project, titled "Spaceflight Multi-Processor Photonics Architectures with Fault Tolerance and Connectivity Tuned from Sparse to Dense". Dr. LaForge is a graduate of MIT and McGill University. A three-time NASA Fellow, he is as well an adjunct professor of Computer Science and Mathematics with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

"MDA shoulders a great deal of the responsibility for protecting our nation," Dr. LaForge said. "It's an extremely tough mission, and I am grateful for the chance to earn the agency's confidence. This project leverages results from our NASA-sponsored research on interstellar spacecraft supercomputers: 'Architectures and Algorithms for Self-Healing Autonomous Spacecraft'." Figures 1 and 2 on the second page of this press release illustrate key concepts.

In 2004, The Right Stuff of Tahoe executed technologically related contracts with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and with the Department of Homeland Security's Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Dr. LaForge continued, "I have tasked my Product Development Vice President, James W. G. Turner, with ensuring that our multi-computer architectures have every best chance of realizing commercial adoption. James and I welcome two senior contributors to the project: Dr. M. Sami Fadali, Electrical Engineering Professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, and Mr. Ray Bryan, President of Synergy Technology, based in Reno. James and I are also fortunate to tap the talents of two of our digital engineers, Jeffrey R. Moreland and Frederick J. Ramsing." Mr. Moreland majored in electrical engineering at Binghamton University. Mr. Ramsing holds a Masters degree from the University of Nevada, Reno. Both joined the Right Stuff of Tahoe in 2004.

The six-month, $100,000 contract was signed the first week in July. It provides for a three-month, $50,000 hardware design option.

In addition to multi-computer architectures, The Right Stuff of Tahoe makes and sells computer programs that create and read digital stationery, using standard inks and stock paper. Employing high-density bar codes in novel ways, the RightCardWare™ family of software prints and scans digital business cards for more than 11,000 customers.

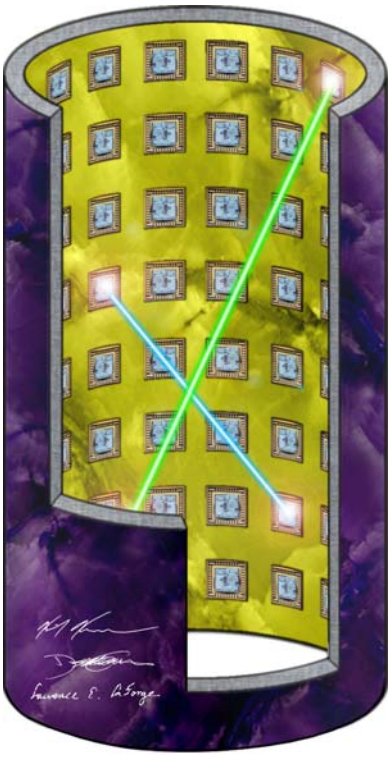

Figure 1: In space or on earth, vertical cavity semiconductor-emitting lasers, or VCSELs, serve as photonics enablers for multi-computer architectures.

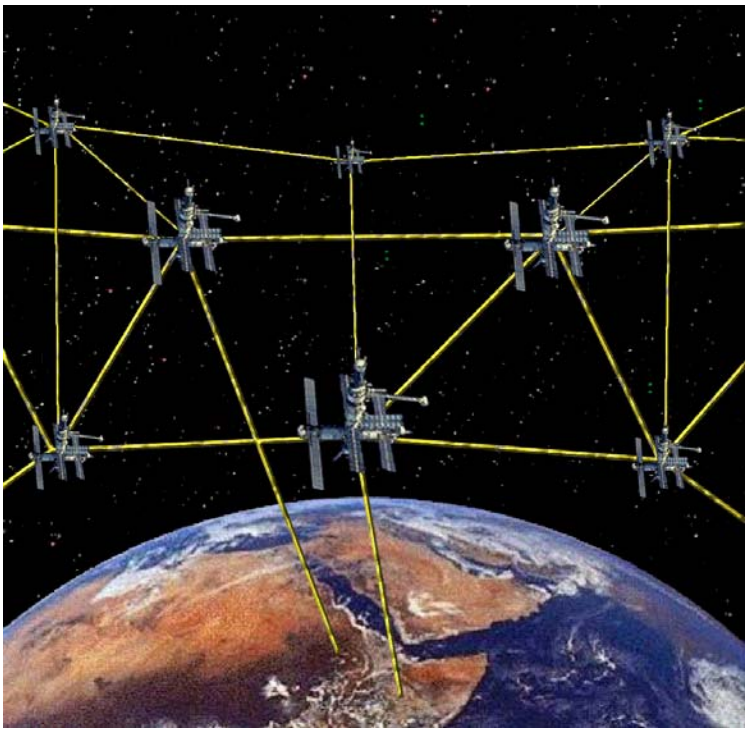

Figure 2: Multi-computer architecture of Figure 1, extended across *multiple* spacecraft.