Press Release

The Server Labs takes the European Space Agency (ESA) to The Cloud

After the remarkable results of an initial feasibility study, The Server Labs (TSL) and ESA are now launching a 20 times larger follow-up project to further expand on the positive outcome of the first study. Starting with its Gaia project the European Space Agency (ESA) is considering relocating its data processing for future projects and test environments to The Cloud. Moving part of Gaia's data processing to The Cloud has the potential to provide ESA with savings of up to 50% translating into hundreds of thousands of Euros.

Madrid, Spain, 14, September, 2009: The Server Labs (TSL), European IT company and leader in Cloud Computing architecture services, announced today that it has started a new project with the European Space Agency (ESA), an in-depth investigation of the practicalities of moving the Gaia project's Astrometric Data Processing to the Amazon EC2 (Amazon Web Services) Cloud Environment. The ambitious Gaia project aims to create a three-dimensional map of unprecedented size and precision charting the composition, formation and evolution of over one billion stars (around 1% of our Galaxy).

In May 2009 The Server Labs successfully completed the first feasibility study with ESA testing the potential of moving the Gaia project's data processing to the Cloud environment. A vital part of this project is the processing of vast quantities of data collected in space. Now ESA is exploring Cloud Computing to augment the dedicated data centre traditionally required for this task. With the Cloud's ability to dynamically align resource capacity and demand a shift to the Amazon EC2 (Amazon Web Services) cloud environment would dramatically reduce the cost of the Gaia project's enormous data processing needs and reduce the amount of capital expenditure needed.

"The Gaia AGIS Cloud experiment has been very successful for us. It indicates that bringing the data processing to The Cloud can provide us with savings of up 50% compared to using in house hardware. An additional advantage is that it gives us the ability to scale to far more processors that we could have in house which means essentially that we can finish the job sooner", says William O'Mullane, Gaia Science Operations Development Director for ESA.

In the follow-up study for ESA, TSL will further test the capacity of its data processing, testing the horizontal scalability of Gaia's data processing grid to limits impossible with the current in-house cluster. In this new science project TSL will run ESA's Gaia data processing in Amazon's Cloud, incorporating RightScale's and Oracle's technology. RightScale, a leading provider in Cloud Computing management, enables the deployment and management of business-critical applications across multiple Clouds.

"It's exciting to see the increasing use of Cloud Computing in Europe, especially at important organisations such as ESA. The Server Labs have demonstrated strong

technology expertise in the design and implementation of IT architectures across many industries, making them an ideal services organisation for this project. By using RightScale as the cloud management platform for this and other cloud deployments, TSL can ensure that its customers are consistently implementing cloud best practices for maximum performance and flexibility. TSL's technical ability, combined with its outstanding track record and customer satisfaction, are the primary reasons we chose them as a RightScale service partner in Europe." Michael Crandell, CEO and Founder, RightScale

"There is no doubt about the potential offered by Cloud Computing to organisations even of the size of ESA", comments Paul Parsons, CTO and Co-Founder, The Servers Labs. "Vast amounts of computing resources are available on demand when ESA needs them for a specific task. As soon as the task is finished, other companies might use the resources for online shopping for example. The fact that a large organisation like the European Space Agency is looking to use Cloud Computing is a clear indication of the possibilities it provides".

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Notes to the editors:
The Server Labs
The Server Labs (TSL) is a specialist IT consultancy and Development Company and a leading authority in Cloud Computing services. Founded in 2004, The Server Labs focuses on the design and implementation of IT architectures and advanced software engineering projects, working with the most advanced solutions and technologies and offering its clients cost-effective, scalable and high performance solutions.

TSL's customer groups are predominantly large and medium-sized corporations which share a growing need for cost effective and scalable IT solutions. TSL has offices in Spain, Germany and the UK. Most recently TSL started partnering with Amazon and RightScale to facilitate the adoption of Cloud Computing in Europe.

More information about The Server Labs is available on www.theserverlabs.com

For more information, related images or videos please contact us.

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