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Looking for the Big Bang: CERN and Oracle expand their R & D partnership

18 August 2018

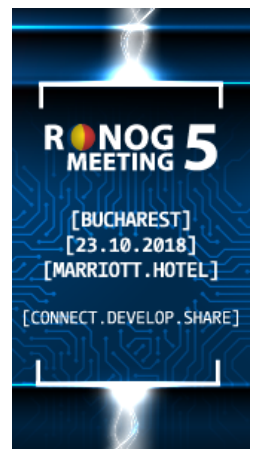
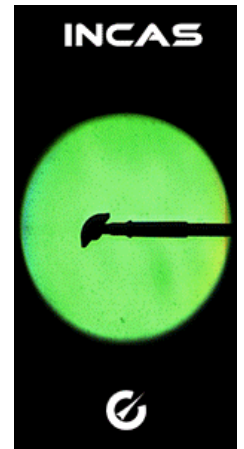
CERN uses Oracle cloud technologies to support its research infrastructure, used to investigate the fundamental structure of our universe, and phenomena such as dark matter and dark energy

The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) is expanding its partnership with Oracle for another three years. This partnership is carried out through a research and development program set up by the laboratory, called CERN openlab, which provides a unique research framework in which scientists and top IT companies can work together. One of the goals of the partnership with Oracle is to develop a high performance cloud infrastructure that can store and analyze large amounts of control data, such as those generated by giant research infrastructures used in the laboratory to probe the origins of the universe. Oracle can use the program's observations to provide its customers with extremely powerful and time-proven cloud technologies.

Since 2001, CERN openlab provides a unique framework for cooperation between science and industry. In this program, CERN cooperates with leading IT companies to develop together performance technologies for elementary physics research. Oracle has been a partner in the program since 2003, and another three-year project cycle began in 2018. Being one of the largest members, the cloud provider is currently involved in four CERN openlab projects. In addition, every year, 40 students from all over the world have the opportunity to work on ongoing projects during a nine-week program at a summer school. "CERN openlab is a project where everyone involved wins," said Eric Grancher, head of the CERN Database Services Group. "The program offers our collaborators a way to receive valuable / important / significant / relevant feedback, testing their solutions in one of the most complex and challenging technology environments. And we at CERN can assess the potential of new technologies for future applications from their early development stages. In addition, CERN openlab provides a neutral scientific environment in which companies can begin to dialogue. "

"We are excited to extend our partnership with Oracle for another three years," said Eva Dafonte Perez, deputy at CERN's Database Services Group. "In addition to our 15-year partnership with CERN openlab, we have been working with Oracle since 1982. We will continue to need high-performance solutions in the future, and in particular, which can be quickly scaled, store and analyze the increasing amount of data our instruments record. Oracle offers flexibility, because its solutions are available on the spot as well as in the cloud. "

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, CERN is dedicated to elementary research in physics. CERN uses the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), which is the largest particle accelerator in the world, to investigate the fundamental structure of the universe. In the LHC, subatomic particles are accelerated and collided, simulating existing conditions with only a fraction of a second after the Big Bang. LHC experiments currently produce about 50 petbits per year - a volume that corresponds to about 2,000 years of HD video



content.

But the way we now understand physics explains only visible matter, which accounts for about 5% of the total energy of the universe. As a result, the LHC will be even stronger and will generate more particle collisions, boosting efforts to investigate phenomena such as dark matter and dark energy. CERN also needs an equally strong IT infrastructure; laboratory collaboration with Oracle plays an essential role in ensuring this.

"CERN's research objectives are extremely exciting, with lab-developed technologies having a significant impact on our daily lives. For example, the technologies developed at CERN have already helped improve the treatment of certain types of cancer. So we are very excited to renew partnership at CERN openlab and to work together to develop even stronger technologies that will advance both in science and industry," said David Ebert, Director, Solutions for Government, Education, Industry Health Services EMEA Oracle.

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