UCSD Center for Magnetic Recording Research awarded $1.1 million for advanced recording technologies

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UCSD CENTER FOR MAGNETIC RECORDING RESEARCH

AWARDED $1.1 MILLION FOR ADVANCED RECORDING TECHNOLOGIES

The Center For Magnetic Recording Research at the University of California, San Diego has received $1.1 million from a project announced today by the Advanced Research Projects Agency to support research on advanced recording technologies.

The money was awarded as part of a two-year, $10.7 million grant to The National Storage Industry Consortium, of which UCSD is a member.

The grant will be used to support the five-year goals of the consortium, which include: developing technologies that will allow magnetic disk storage densities of 10 gigabits (10 billion bits) per square inch--about 100 times the current capacity of a typical hard drive found in a personal computer; magnetic tape recording for storing 1 terabyte (1 trillion bytes) per cubic inch; and advanced optical recording at 10 times current performance levels. One byte is the equivalent of eight bits.

The magnetic disk program focuses on developing novel disk media, signal processing, and improving the head/media interface and head tracking. The tape recorder program will develop specialized test instrumentation and test methods, tape transport systems, channel and error correcting code formats and tape binders/lubricants. The new capabilities will be used in both military and commercial data storage systems.

The Center For Magnetic Recording Research (CMRR) will participate in both the magnetic disk and tape programs. As part of the agreement, participating consortium members have agreed to provide matching funds.

The five-year costs for the effort is about $60 million.

Sheldon Schultz, director of CMRR, said he was pleased that UCSD was one of the largest university recipients of this grant.

"Clearly, we are delighted that industry, the consortium and government recognize that we are one of the premier academic institutions involved in advanced magnetic storage," he said. "We have been given a lot of responsibility because of that, both financially and technologically. But that's what we thrive on."

In addition to providing funding, Schultz said the grant was significant because it supported long-term research.

"It is very important for the university that we have long- range programs to support doctoral dissertations and so forth," he said. "(The grant) also requires dedicated, comprehensive work, so it's very well matched to a university effort both in challenge and scope."

The National Storage Industry Consortium is headquarted in San Diego and is comprised of 15 industrial members and 17 associated universities. University members in addition to UCSD include: University of Alabama; University of Arizona; University of California, Berkeley; Carnegie Mellon University; University of Illinois; University of Minnesota; University of Nebraska; University of California, Los Angeles; Rice University; Stanford University; California Institute of Technology; Northwestern University; University of Pittsburgh; Santa Clara University; Ohio Sate University; Washington University.

Industry members include: Advanced Research Corp., Bellcore, Applied Magnetics Corp., Digital Equipment Corp., IBM Corp., Eastman Kodak Co., Datatape Corp., Metrum Information Storage, Storage Technology Corp., Seagate Corp., Hewlett-Packard, Iomega Corp., Maxtor Corp., Quantum Corp., and Recording Physics.

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