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Company

CC CompuNet Helps to Build IT Infrastructure for the Columbus Project

Columbus control center of German Aerospace Center uses Linux systems

Kerpen, June 25, 2003. The German Aerospace Center (DLR) with headquarters in Oberpfaffenhofen and CC CompuNet AG & Co. OHG, Germany's largest vendor-independent IT service provider, signed a contract worth about 2.4 million euros. The project covers a high-performance storage solution that relies on a Linux server farm. The server farm hosts applications that are required for the Columbus operation.

The space lab is designed to send telemetry, audio, and video data back to earth around the clock over the next 10 to 15 years. Smooth transmissions, safe storage, and high data availability are ensured by 46 IBM Dual-Xeon servers, two Sun Solaris systems, almost 25 terabytes of EMC CLARiiON CX600 storage, ADIC StorNext HSM, Legato Networker Backup as well as an ADIC Scalar10k tape library with more than 70 terabytes of storage for backup and archiving. The operating system of choice is the SuSE Linux Enterprise Server 8, which is based on United Linux 1.0. The Open Source software was chosen for its high flexibility and scalability as well as for its almost proverbial stability. The operating system, delivered with full source

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code, has also proven its value as a development platform during the evaluation phase. “The fact that the order was awarded to CC CompuNet underscores the competence of our partner especially in the Linux environment,” says Richard Seibt, CEO of SuSE Linux AG, “as well as the importance of the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for critical applications. We will continue to join forces in tackling and winning projects in business-critical segments.”

For CC CompuNet, this project is a major milestone for the further development of its Linux services. “Our Linux commitment has become very important,” says Dr. Karsten Freihube, Managing Director of CC CompuNet. “The use of the Open Source operating system in manned spacecraft validates our decision to integrate Linux as an equivalent operating system into our service portfolio. With nearly all of our customers, Linux is beginning to play an ever important role in special areas of application.”

“The use of EMC Clariion CX600 and corresponding software components in this environment shows that a midrange system can already meet highest requirements in view of high availability and scalability today. This is the only way to guarantee permanent data access and the central evaluation of the information. This project also demonstrates the high significance that we assign to our recently extended partnership with CC CompuNet,” says Wolfgang Kroh, Managing Director of EMC Deutschland GmbH, commenting on the successful cooperation.

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Columbus is Europe's main contribution to the ISS

Columbus is the European space lab that is designed to ensure European research in space over the long term. It forms the cornerstone of the European contribution to the International Space Station ISS and makes Europe one of the main players of the space station program. The European Space Agency ESA plans to launch the lab in October 2004. The Columbus space lab and the Columbus control center are core elements of the European involvement in the International Space Station ISS," underscores Dr. Joachim Kehr, Director of the DLR Columbus project office. "With CC CompuNet, we found a reliable and flexible partner for the implementation of this immensely important installation."

The key functions of the Columbus control center, provided by DLR on behalf of ESA, will include the monitoring and control of Columbus' on-board systems, the coordination of the European payload operation and the provision of the European communication network for operations and data distribution.

The Columbus control center must be ready in time to provide additional communication services for the ESA control center in Toulouse, France. There, these functions will already be required by September 27, 2004 when the first autonomous transfer vehicle ATV is launched on board of an Ariane-5 from Kourou in French Guayana. This mission is intended to take supplies to the ISS crew and to correct the orbit of the space station.

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About CC CompuNet

CC CompuNet is a leading German provider of IT infrastructure services for corporate customers. To help our customers maximise the value of IT to their businesses, we offer vendor independent services at every stage of infrastructure investment. We can help our customers with the choice of technology, its procurement, tailored configuration, testing and integration within the enterprise. We can then ensure continued efficient, cost effective performance through our range of managed services. CC CompuNet is part of Computacenter plc, a leading European IT infrastructure services provider. The company's corporate and public sector clients are served by a network of branch offices across the UK, Germany, Austria, France, Luxembourg and Belgium.