



September 10, 2009

Endicott Interconnect, IBM team on new supercomputer

By My-Ly Nguyen
mnguyen@gannett.com

ENDICOTT -- Endicott Interconnect Technologies said it will supply IBM with all of the printed circuit boards, board level assemblies and related interconnect components for the Blue Gene Q, IBM's next-generation supercomputer.

The Q series represents a significant leap in computing power versus current models, the company said. It runs at 20 petaflops, or 20 quadrillion calculations per second -- 15 times faster than today's most powerful supercomputer, EI spokeswoman Theresa Taro said.

EI officials declined to disclose the expected monetary value of the contract but said the work will help retain jobs at the company's 1,500-employee plant in Endicott. Specifics on the contract's value and job retention will depend on how well the product sells in the market.

"IBM's hardware and software track record make Blue Gene supercomputers a very competitive product in the marketplace," said Michael Hills, senior vice president of sales, marketing and product management at EI.

Supercomputer customers are in government, academic and medical research, the financial industry, oil exploration, retail services and gaming, Hills said.

"The award is a very significant win for Endicott Interconnect in that it speaks volumes to IBM's confidence in the ability of EI to deliver very complex products on time and to the highest quality standards," he said.

IBM has been an EI customer for other programs. EI started in 2002 after local investors bought IBM's microelectronics division in Endicott.

"They've been a longtime, good supplier for us," IBM spokesman James Smith said.

He declined to elaborate on any specifics regarding this program. IBM does not typically discuss those details, he said.
