

Non US Issues – a UK view

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SOS10 “Non-US Issues” Panel

8 March 2006, Maui

- US dominates:
 - Budgets, Top500, vendors, conferences ...

- Q: “what impact on non-U.S. sites?”

- Q v2: “educate the Americans ...”



“educate ...”

- The world does not simply split into “US” and “Non-US”
 - There are many countries, of which the US is just one
 - E.g. would US accept being just part of “Non-EU”, or “Non-China”?
- Counter:
 - Perhaps we non-US (especially Europeans) are just too sensitive/paranoid about this – after all much of the (US) dominance is fact not perception?
- Perhaps there are no “non-PLACE” issues because there are just the same issues everywhere?

“answer the question”: Budgets

- US is “arguably” most “developed/industrialized” nation with one of world’s largest populations – no surprise the market is dominated by US centres/companies etc and that the budgets are bigger
- Non-US smaller sites suffer “entry level” pricing effect
 - Discounts are applied more strongly to large and/or flagship sites
 - Many “capability” HPC systems only really cost-effective at larger scales
 - Some non-US sites big enough to be OK
- Leads to US dominance of “design influence”
 - But surely most “non-US” needs are same (apart from budget/scale) so doesn’t really matter?
- Leads to US dominance of “design input” – research
 - Does matter (to both US & non) as considerable expertise outside US

“answer the question”: Top500

- All follows from previous slide really ...

“answer the question”: Vendors

- “most vendors are US”: true, but others do exist
 - Japan (NEC, etc), France (Bull), UK (Quadrics, Clearspeed)
- Vendors follow the money – so not a massive surprise that most are US based
- Vendors are supported by the right economy and political system
 - US is highly industrialized, high tech
 - US is a protectionist economy (but would never admit it!)
- In reality most non-US countries don't care about having no indigenous vendors
 - Cars, Fuel, etc all dominated by foreign companies
 - So why do I care where my HPC is made?

“answer the question”: conferences



There are some advantages ...



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