

Re: NASA gets SGI 2048-core Itanium 2 supercomputer

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- *From:* "Richard B. Gilbert" <rgilbert88@xxxxxxxxxxx>
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DaveG wrote:

On Nov 29, 10:15 am, Neil Rieck <n.ri...@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Nov 28, 5:00 pm, JF Mezei <jfmezei.spam...@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Neil Rieck wrote:

[...snip...]

That is NASA's current mission as given by the current president of the USA. Retire Shuttle and build an Apollo system with the contractors that used to do Shuttle with the hopes of going to the moon in 2020.

Not sure why you would consider it "nice" to go back 40 years in technology and design.

I'm a person who prefers to view the world through the prism of optimism so I would not want to go back to 1960. But those years were very optimistic times and I remember seeing Werner von Braun on TV saying that moon bases in the late 1970s would lead to a manned Mars mission in the 1980s.

And if you think about it, that is where some US politicians took the wrong path (which affected the whole planet). Any industrial economy

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can only do one really big thing like "making war" or "having a space program", not both. The US congress shut down the manned space program to divert money to the Vietnam War effort but in the end, there was no "Gulf of Tonkin" incident and the "domino theory" was just something to justify the war. What is really weird is that defense contractors would have been required to do a space program so they would benefit either way, but a space program wouldn't have consumed all those human lives.

Currently, the US is burning money in Iraq as history is repeating itself (you can tell by the currency) while thousands of people are dying unnecessarily (Sadam didn't have any WMDs; Sadam had nothing to do with "911"). Meanwhile, Japan, India, and China have announced unmanned lunar missions. China is currently in orbit around the moon with hi-def cameras and other experiments. They intend to do an unmanned soft-landing with a robotic rover in 2012 and a sample-return mission in 2017.

While it is true that the US has plans for a manned landing between 2020 and 2024, I'm sure that the American congress will be making tough choices shortly and this stuff will be delayed indefinitely.

NSR

I agree. After spending 15 months in Vietnam back in '68 – '69, I often wonder why we were there in the first place, just like Iraq today. What have we learned? Seems like nothing. I'd rather we spent our dollars on seeing "what's out there", but this doesn't feed the ever hungry war machine.

A lot of people wonder why we are in Iraq! Dubyah wanted a war? Finish what Daddy started?

Insanity!!!!!!

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