Name new computing technology, win $500

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A $500 prize is being offered for the winning name submitted for the prototype of what may be the next generation of personal computers.

University of Maryland researchers said the new technology -- capable of computing speeds 100 times faster than current desktops -- is based on parallel processing on a single chip.

The prototype was developed by Professor Uzi Vishkin and colleagues at the university's Clark School of Engineering.

"The single-chip supercomputer prototype ... uses rich algorithmic theory to address the practical problem of building an easy-to-program multi-core computer," said Charles Leiserson, a professor of computer science and engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "Vishkin's chip unites the theory of yesterday with the reality of today."

To increase awareness of his new technology, Vishkin is inviting the public to propose names for it. The name should reflect the features and bold aspirations of the new machine and its parallel computing capabilities, Vishkin said.

The winner will receive a $500 cash prize and will be credited with the naming of the innovative technology.

Names can be submitted at www.eng.umd.edu . The deadline for submissions is Sept. 15.

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