Australian Genome Research Facility Powered By Isilon Storage

- Illumina gene sequencing systems use Isilon Storage to handle 10TB data streams

SYDNEY— Feb 10, 2011 — The Australian Genome Research Facility (AGRF) has selected Isilon® (Nasdaq: ISLN) storage to record and analyse the massive amount of data generated by its two new Illumina HiSeq 2000™ gene sequencing systems.

The AGRF provides sequencing services across the entire biological spectrum, from viruses, bacteria and fungi, to plants, animals and humans. Located in Parkville, Melbourne, the AGRF's Victorian operation can now provide its clients with the tools to research many sizeable sequencing projects by processing larger numbers of samples and decoding larger and more complex genomes.

"The new systems have very heavy requirements regarding disk array size and performance which we didn't have in-house so we had to look for another solution," said Wayne Mather, Head of IT at AGRF.

"We knew the HiSeqs would be simultaneously generating close to 10TBs of data a run, which is three times more than our existing sequencing platforms. So we needed a storage system that could not only capture massive data from the initial runs but also handle the intensive process of analysing that information as quickly as possible to get the results back to our clients.

"The heavy data analysis is very machine and disk intensive with a great deal of disk writing and very quick data transfers. We also hold the results data for a period of time as client backup so we needed additional storage as well as fast processing power."

Mather began researching storage systems early in 2010 with a deadline of a July installation.

"I was able to put a lot of time and thought into the selection which was invaluable as the field of genome research is changing at an extremely rapid rate. I not only considered our current needs but also the ease of maintenance and future expansion," explained Mather.

After considering SAN-based storage from a number of vendors, AGRF selected Isilon reseller AGTC Consulting to supply and install a pipeline solution for the IIlumina HiSeqs.

Leveraging Isilon's X-Series IQ12000X 5 node Scale-out Storage Platform, featuring its OneFS operating system, 60 TB of storage is connected to a bladed compute server to provide a single, high performance, highly scalable, shared pool of storage with reduced storage management.

"We chose Isilon storage because it did have higher transfer rates and disk speeds than the competition," said Mather. "Illumina also recommended Isilon but we did our own research, talked to other Isilon users and came to the same conclusion.

"A big advantage of the Isilon system was its ease of installation – it was an absolute breeze to setup. It is also very modular and easy to upgrade which is a huge plus for us as we will need to expand our storage if we want to add the next generation systems that are just around the corner.

"In the past we used to have to add a whole new disk array for new services and that became tedious because we would end up with four or five different disk array technologies. We didn't want to do that anymore so now we can head down one path and Isilon is the way to go."

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About Isilon Systems

Isilon, a division of EMC, is the global leader in scale-out storage. We deliver powerful yet simple solutions for enterprises that want to manage their data, not their storage. Isilon's products are simple to install, manage and scale, at any size. And, unlike traditional enterprise storage, Isilon stays simple no matter how much storage is added, how much performance is required or how business needs change in the future. We're challenging enterprises to think differently about their storage, because when they do, they'll recognise there's a better, simpler way. Learn what we mean at http://www.isilon.com.

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About AGTC (www.agtcconsulting.com.au)

AGTC is a IT consulting firm that specialises in the provision of IT/Biotech professional services to scientists in public and private research institutes, biotechnology companies, and universities.

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