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How about Groovytron? Datastreak? Robocruncher?

BY LAURA VOZZELLA

Think a contest to name a new "desktop supercomputer" would appeal to a handful of geeks? Think again.

About 3,500 people have submitted entries to the University of Maryland's Clark School of Engineering — and still others have been clamoring to get in on the contest, which offers a \$500 prize and "the distinction of having named this advance in computing technology."

Who wants in? Non-U.S. residents, which makes some sense given how many non-U.S. engineers are out there. And children under the age of 18, who must be having an awfully dull summer.



VISHKIN

"By popular demand, the Clark School's 'desktop supercomputer' naming contest is now open to non-U.S. residents and those under the age of 18," a press release says.

Professor **Uzi Vishkin**, who has developed a computer said to work 100 times faster than current desktops through something called parallel processing, said he never wanted to exclude anyone from the contest.

"I'm not a PR person," said Vishkin, who has been working on the mathematical theory behind the supercomputer since 1979, and has been developing the hardware design for the past decade. "We have a PR person. They just contacted the legal people and asked them to write it. They put a restriction for some legal reasons that we would not allow minors and foreign nationals."

The university rethought those restrictions after the original contest press release went out last month and the level of international interest became clear. Tech types promptly translated the release into 25 languages.

Vishkin said he also wanted young people to participate since he hopes his invention will be on their desks someday.

"Who will be the user of this? The people who are now children," he said.

Names can be submitted at www.ece.umd.edu/supercomputer/. Deadline is Sept. 15.