



Quality | Performance | Service



COMPANIES OVERVIEW

THE HYPERTEC GROUP

The Hypertec Group is one of Canada's only ISO 9001:2000 Qualified system integrator, manufacturer and service provider of information technology goods and services. The growth of the Hypertec Group enabled us to move our 500+ employees, in February 2003, to an ultra-modern plant of 53,500 m² (576,000 square feet). The group has operations in 5 different locations across North America. The Hypertec Group has been servicing large and small enterprise clients since its inception and is proud to be one of the few profitable and viable solution providers in Canada today. The main businesses of The Hypertec Group are the following:

HYPERTEC SYSTEMS

Hypertec Systems is one of Canada's largest Value Added Reseller with a primary focus in Consulting, Sales, Service and Support of leading brands in information technology products. Hypertec Systems promotes and sells products from companies such as Hewlett-Packard, Compaq, Lenovo, Toshiba, NEC and Gateway. Software solutions are primarily from Microsoft, Novell, Lotus, SCO, Corel, Network Associates, Legato and DataCore. Hypertec Systems offers its products across Canada through direct branches and agents. Quebec is the largest market of Hypertec Systems with Ontario being the second largest, primarily in the Government and Public sectors.

HYPERTEC SERVICE

Hypertec Service has earned an enviable position in the market for after sales service and technical support. Hypertec Service holds several recognized accreditations, which enable them to offer excellent support services. Modern repair facilities together with a large replacement parts inventory serve to satisfy the most demanding client's needs, on-site or off-site, in outstanding turn-around times. Hypertec Service is an authorized service center for most of the major manufacturers, i.e. Lenovo, Hewlett-Packard, Toshiba, NEC, Xerox, Lexmark, Fujitsu, etc.

Hypertec Service Integration Centre conforms to the ISO 9001 quality assurance standards and provides customized software configurations, hardware integration and testing, up to 48-hour burn-in and network installations.

HYPERTEC CAPITAL

Hypertec Capital provides the right leasing solutions for your schedule and budget. The financing solutions cover hardware as well as soft costs such as software, installation, training and maintenance upgrades. Customers will have the option of buying the equipment, trading it in or rolling it over and have the flexibility to reduce the cost and risk of obsolescence.



HYPERTEC BCDR

The Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery services developed by Hypertec ensure high availability and efficient resumption of vital business functions in the event of a major interruption to the computers, telecommunication resources, user work areas and warehouses of your enterprise. Hypertec professionals have developed unique solutions and invested in robust infrastructures to ensure that your business priorities are protected.

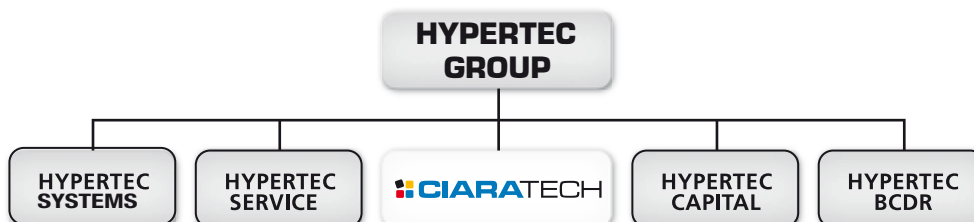
Business Continuity solutions from Hypertec provide :

- 3500 user work stations (PCs, call center, other) in Montreal and Quebec
- High Availability Infrastructures that will operate continuously
- Fully redundant network which covers the US, Canada and Europe
- Hosting services for IT, call centers and network infrastructures (US, Canada, and Europe)
- High capacity and availability for Storage as well as off-site data vault services
- Warehouse recovery services with up to 200,000 square feet (2 different locations)
- Power backup
- 24/7/365 service center
- Dedicated professional services for continuity



CIARATECH

Established in 1984, CIARATECH, a division of Hypertec Group, has been in the information technology field as a systems technology manufacturer for more than 25 years. CIARATECH is one of Canada's largest manufacturer of Intel-based computers. The continued growth the company is experiencing has induced CIARATECH to become a leader as computer manufacturer (see 'Hypertec Group Organizational Chart' below) :



CIARATECH always relied on quality built into all its systems. This characteristic strongly appreciated by our customers has been the key to success in gradual growth of CIARATECH sales figure. Very active in the education sector at the beginning, CIARATECH carried on its penetration in government sector and after in the corporate market.

CIARATECH : A manufacturer of personal computers

With their state-of-the-art technology, all CIARATECH products are based on Intel technology and the latest industry standards. To maintain the highest level of quality, CIARATECH made partnerships with major components manufacturers. Our main partner is Intel. CIARATECH is the largest Canadian manufacturer of systems based on Intel technology. We only use motherboards and processors from Intel. Almost 90% of the network interface cards integrated to our systems are Intel branded.

Among partnerships with suppliers for components, we do business with manufacturers like Apex, Enlight, Foxconn and Yeong Yang for casings, Sapphire for graphic cards, LG and Samsung for optical drives, Creative Labs for sound cards, U.S. Robotics for fax-modems, Seagate and Western Digital for hard disk drives, LSI Logic and Promise for RAID controllers, Samsung and Philips for monitors, Intel and D-Link for network interface cards, Microsoft and Logitech for mice, Solidus and Microsoft for keyboards and Cyber Acoustics for speakers.

(... ->)



CIARATECH has been a long time Microsoft Certified Partner. We hold « Microsoft Certified Solution Provider » and sought-after « Platinum » titles.

A research and development team ensure that quality, reliability and performance at which our customers got accustomed to remain our strong points when introducing new products. So, our specialists proceed to the evaluation of the different Intel technologies as they are introduced onto market. We make sure that all systems can be certified by Microsoft as well. We verify the compatibility of the new Intel products with those of our key partners and that even if most of them have already been tested at the Intel factory. By doing so, we are certain to market proven systems able to succeed in all tests they could be submitted to.

At the administrative level, CIARATECH, in spite of its importance, as managed to preserve a simple and efficient decision structure. That specific management model allows to quickly escalate a problem to the appropriate level. So the CIARATECH stakeholders can focus on customer orientation and adequately meet customers' needs and demands.

CIARATECH : An end-to-end contract manufacturer of technology products

By combining their knowledge and expertise in the domain of IT with their state of the art equipment and facilities, CIARATECH provides value-added services with regards to the design, engineering and manufacturing of technology products. This is achieved by working in a collaborative relationship with the client, where CIARATECH essentially becomes an added branch to the client's manufacturing division. Whether CIARATECH works with the client on one vital aspect of the product's development, or manages the entire product development from concept to launch, clients can benefit from CIARATECH's leading edge capabilities to ultimately achieve competitive advantage.

CIARATECH : A world-class server provider

CIARATECH designs, develops, markets, services, and supports a variety of server systems including NEXXUS-4000® Personal Cluster, the acclaimed VXRACK® high density blade server, FUSION-1200® SMP Server powered by ScaleMP™, VXR-3DT® Supercomputer Architecture, VXPRO® rack-mount/tower servers, VXSTOR® networked storage and GRAPHIXX® high-end workstations.

The company's state of the art products are based on the Intel IA32, IA64 and Nehalem architectures and use Linux and Microsoft operating systems.



The CIARATECH advantages

25 years of leadership

CIARATECH is a leader in the field of High Performance Computing and Mission Critical IT requirement. CIARATECH hardware engineers and software designers have led the rapidly changing and evolving field of computer technology with an impressive product line since its inception in 1984. Some of CIARATECH customers include well known pharmaceutical enterprises, educational Institutions, government and research laboratories and digital companies who all stay competitive by proudly using CIARATECH products and services.

Excellent technical support & customer service

CIARATECH technical support and customer service is our most valued asset. Our CIARATECH technicians and sales staff consistently ensure that your entire experience is handled both promptly and professionally. The level of expertise of our technical sales and service teams is first rate and often exceeds the expectations of comparable services offered by large, multinational corporations.

“Avant-garde” technology

CIARATECH keeps you on the leading and sometimes ‘bleeding edge’ of technology by providing sophisticated and powerful designs in addition to the latest in emerging technologies for processors, networking, software and peripherals.

Tailored construction

CIARATECH solutions are tailored to meet the needs of even the most stringent budgets, including the latest available technology for optimal performance and reliability. Our knowledgeable technical sales team work with you to custom design your server system for applications such as numeric processing, image processing, data warehousing, molecular modeling, video animation and/or CAD.



Quality

We differentiate ourselves by the quality, reliability and affordability of our manufactured products. Indeed, the relationships we have built with our customers have been based on these three manufacturing essentials. Accordingly, to uphold this notion and preserve the quality of our products, our company has implemented a number of Quality Assurance and Quality Control procedures, processes and control mechanisms to fully support this initiative.

ISO 9001:2000

CIARATECH adheres to the ISO 9001:2000 Standards. To qualify for these certifications, a company must abide by a strict set of rules that encompass quality control in five main areas of a business: 1) Systemic Requirements; 2) Management Requirements; 3) Resource Requirements; 4) Realization Requirements, and 5) Remedial Requirements. Each of these five areas has extensive regulations detailing the standards and practices that must be in place to qualify for these certifications.

ISO 13485:2003 certified

This certification allows CIARATECH to:

1. control the documents management during incidents (major or minor) and provide all necessary proof.
2. identify and control all risks aspects and to respect applicable regulations and legislations.
3. establish long-term relations with suppliers and conduct business with integrity, provide excellence in manufacturing, engineering and environmental and all needed resources and training and achieve continual improvement.

ISO 14001:2004 certified

CIARATECH is totally committed in environment protection. The system of environmental management applies to all the activities (assembly, integration, service and quality control) of the company. We not only intend to respect the environmental legislation and other requirements, but also going beyond by implementing several key steps:

1. efficient use of the natural resources, and environmentally friendly packaging materials and products;
2. responsible management of emissions;
3. elimination of defective or discontinued products that are the sources of waste and loss in production.

Pride & professionalism

Everything at CIARATECH is done with exceptional attention to detail. Each member of the company is highly educated, rigorously trained and deeply committed to providing the highest quality products and services our customers deserve and expect. We labor relentlessly to provide superior product design, technical support, and quality control.



Infrastructure

Our production lines are located in an ultra-modern 576,000 square feet facility.

In the event of an unusual sudden increase in orders, we have a flexible production line that is capable of meeting any surplus demand. There is also a separate dedicated prototyping line to ensure that prototype parts are never mixed with production parts, and that any pre-production issues are solved by the appropriate dedicated team of experts.

With current production lines, we have the capacity to produce over one million (1,000,000) units per year. Given the ample physical space, we may increase production capacity as required, ensuring that all your needs will be consistently fulfilled. Furthermore, equipped with seven (7) diesel power generators with an electrical output of sixteen (16) Megawatts, we have the unique ability to continue production during extended power outages. This ensures that the production of your products will always remain on schedule.

For production, we employ the serial work method. A particular product has specifically timed operations that are usually divided into a determined set of specialized operations. This allows for improved training for our newly hired employees in the form of cross-training and thus results in fewer quality control issues. In addition, with the implemented planned division of labor, a segment of production is never waiting for another team to finish an operation before they can begin their tasks. This keeps efficiency high and production costs low, thus generating savings reflected in the competitive price of the particular product.

Every unit that CIARATECH produces undergoes complete and rigorous quality control testing before being shipped. We do not use any type of sampling for quality control.

We have the capacity to house large quantities of inventory with areas dedicated to specific clients stocked with the components the clients need for their production. This allows us to manufacture product in the event of an emergency request. Also, our facility includes a dedicated shipping area with eleven (11) shipping docks that can receive any size of transport vehicle. The shipping is carried out by experienced shipping staffs that apply company implemented and certified shipping procedures. This provides for a continuous flow of product and controlled supply chain management that benefit our suppliers and clients.



CIARATECH laptops and personal computers

CIARATECH produces a complete range of customized personal computers merged into two series: Discovery for computers in desktop casing and Enterprise for those in a tower casing. CIARATECH personal computers are compatible with Microsoft® Windows® 7 and Red Hat® Linux operating systems.

CIARATECH personal computers are built with Intel motherboards using the latest Intel Q57, H55, Q45, G43 and G41 chipsets with QPI or 1600 and 1333 MHz front side bus. They use most recent and most performant Intel® processors like Core^{MC} i7, Core^{MC} i5, Core^{MC} i3, Core^{MC}2 Quad, Core^{MC}2 Duo, Pentium® Dual-Core and Celeron® with DDR3 1600 and 1333 MHz or DDR2 800 MHz up to 16 GB.

CIARATECH personal computers offer many security and environmental features as well as management tools to meet most stringent needs.

When you choose a CIARATECH computer, you get a custom system that exactly meets your needs, expandable and upgradeable. Furthermore, because of its partnership with manufacturers and its large inventory, CIARATECH can guarantee the availability of its platforms for a period meeting your investment schedule.

CIARATECH also produces a large range of laptop computers to meet your personal and business needs. CIARATECH laptops build on usability, with features for entertainment as well as increased performance and security.

CIARATECH mini PC

CIARATECH also offers a comprehensive line of mini PCs, network-ready information appliances, about the size of CD drive, enabling secure and reliable access to Internet and office applications anytime, anywhere.

CIARATECH Thin Client is an alternative solution to PCs, the most complete in the industry lowering total cost of ownership. Server applications upgrade is faster and less expansive. Maintenance interventions and downtime are reduced because there are no moving parts.



Products overview

NEXXUS 4000® Personal Cluster

The NEXXUS 4000® Personal Cluster is a high performance cluster “to-go” that delivers powerful, scalable and easy-to-use supercomputing resources to project teams, departmental computing and highly productive individual contributors. This unique cluster design that include 8 Processors, 32 Cores, up to 128 GB of memory and up to 16 TB of storage provides a budget friendly answer to your most computationally intensive projects. NEXXUS 4000® Personal Clusters can go anywhere. No computer rooms or system administrators are needed. With this unique package design and world class clustering software, you get workstation-like simplicity with unmatched scalability, reliability and performance. Whether your project is on land, sea or in the air, the NEXXUS 4000® Personal Cluster delivers all the freedom and productivity you need in one small and convenient package.

VXRACK® Cluster Technology

VXRACK® is the world’s most dense cluster system. It delivers unparalleled computing power, scalability, redundancy and performance for HPC needs. VXRACK® achieves extreme high-density architecture by using commodity off-the-shelf Intel components. It triples the current rack density using 1U servers and surpasses any other blade technology. VXRACK® achieves excellence in terms of computing power (more than 7.15 Tflops per rack space). VXRACK® is designed for hosting up to 96 VXBLADE® based on Intel’s latest Quad-Core Micro Architecture.

Within a 84” high rack enclosure, VXRACK® is the world’s first and only server to accommodate up to 192 Intel® Xeon® Processors (96 nodes, 768 cores), over 6 TB of memory and up to 192 TB of aggregate local storage. It is suited for intensive computing applications. With onboard PCI-X or PCI-Express slot, each VXBLADE® can operate with off-the-shelf add-on cards, such as InfiniBand, FC HBA or others to fulfill today’s stringent application requirements. VXRACK® is setting the industry standard.



FUSION® 1200 12 processors SMP System

FUSION® 1200 is a Scalable 12 processors SMP system for the High Performance Technical Computing (HPTC) market. Based on a 19-inch rack-mount block design, the FUSION® 1200 is a scalable alternative to traditional RISC based servers.

FUSION® 1200 Series is an enterprise-class system for an IT department looking to leverage the benefits of Intel® standards in a Data Center. With the flexibility to grow from 8 to 32 Intel® Xeon® Quad-Core processors, the FUSION® 1200 Series scales beyond conventional Intel® based platforms while delivering superior price-performance compared to traditional high-end servers. The SMP operational model of the FUSION® 1200 provides reduced management costs compared to clusters. This Intel® Xeon® processor based server, supporting Intel® Extended Memory 64 Technology and the ScaleMP™ vSMP architecture, is the ideal platform for clients with applications that require high processor count and large shared memory.

VXR-3DT® Supercomputer Architecture

The VXR-3DT® is an innovative high-end computer architecture that can scale up to 20480 Intel® Xeon® processors while providing more than 762 Teraflops (Trillions of Floating point Operation Per Second) of computing power with integrated InfiniBand interconnect. The VXR-3DT® gives users access to an extreme high-performance computing (HPC) solution that offers the best price/performance ratio. The innovative architecture of VXR-3DT® is a 100 percent commodity-based building block with dual-rail 12x InfiniBand distributed fabric and InfiniBand natively attached RAID storage. The nodes are interconnected through high-speed, low-latency 12x InfiniBand network in a 3D Torus, Dual Rail Architecture providing more than 3 GB/s of I/O fabric bandwidth per node, with no single point of failure in the entire system.



VXPRO® Server Line

From component selection to the latest in system architecture, VXPRO® Servers are designed to provide you with uninterrupted service, and help you meet all your business needs. The VXPRO® server is available in Tower or Rack-mount (1U, 2U and 4U) format.

In addition to supporting outstanding processing performance, the VXPRO® Servers support high levels of I/O performance in a flexible, cost-effective fashion.

For pure growth potential and speed in an x64 rack server, the VXPRO® server line is the fastest, most reliable, and most expandable one-way and two-way server in its class.

The VXPRO® servers are based on Intel® Core™ or Intel® Xeon® Processors that support many new Intel® advanced server technologies. New technologies mean enhanced performance. Intel's Dual-Core processing power lies at the heart of the VXPRO® server line. Hardware virtualization technology now comes built into every processor. In addition to improving performance, we have also lowered system power consumption by more than 20%, for an overall 190% improvement in performance per watt.

VXSTOR® Storage System

The VXSTOR® Storage solutions are used by the world's largest companies to provide high-capacity, high-performance data storage for NAS, Fibre Channel SAN and IP storage. The VXSTOR® High Capacity storage servers are fully customizable multi-terabyte solutions.

VXSTOR® may be configured as a multi-purpose server with your choice of Microsoft Windows or Linux operating system, or with Microsoft Server 2008 Storage for a maintenance-free storage NAS solution. Available with up to 40 removable drive bays, allowing for up to 80 terabytes of raw storage, our innovative VXSTOR® solutions are the underlying platforms for a variety of storage applications including server-attached storage, networked data storage and disk-to-disk backup and serve a variety of markets such as broadcasting, digital media, medical imaging, and topography.



GRAPHIXX® Workstation

The GRAPHIXX® workstation is the latest addition of VXTECH commitment to enable graphic artists, technical engineers or simply enthusiast gamers to derive maximum benefit from Intel's latest multi-core processors.

The GRAPHIXX® is an ultra-high-performance workstation line which leverages the power of Intel® Core™ i7, Quad-Core or Six-Core Intel® Xeon® Processors running in conjunction with the new Intel X58 or 55520 chipset. Featuring a new 6.4 GT/s QPI, up to 12 MB of cache shared between four or six cores, and up to 96 GB of memory DDR3, a cutting-edge memory technology, a wide range of high-performance OpenGL graphics cards, the new Intel architecture takes GRAPHIXX® workstations to new levels. When combined with powerful I/O designed to easily handle high-density data, the new GRAPHIXX® workstation has what it takes to power the best effects work. The GRAPHIXX® climbs to new heights of scalability by supporting dual-graphics SLI cards and up to eight hot-swap hard drives for 16 TB of storage.