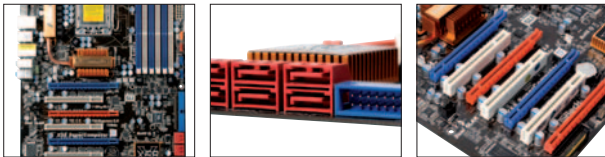# X58 SuperComputer

ASRock X58 SuperComputer

BY MICHAEL LOW

What was once a subsidiary to ASUS has more recently moved towards manufacturing high-end motherboards, no doubt due to their creative output over the years from a humble producer of low-cost OEM solutions. Now that the Intel Core i7 chipset has made its rounds on the motherboard market courtesy of the big players, ASRock is now pumped-up and ready to deliver their version of Nehalem with the courageously named X58 SuperComputer.

ASRock has clearly not lost their sense of adventure by fashioning the board with four PCIe x16 slots that support a wide variety of CrossFire X and SLI configurations to meet any graphics enthusiasts' needs. Moreover, the SuperComputer naming is most likely derived from the board's ability to team three Tesla and one QUADRO graphic cards to fulfill the criteria of a NVIDIA Tesla Personal Supercomputer, making the board a worthy candidate to power graphics-intensive applications and solve complex simulation problems.

The X58 SuperComputer supports the Intel Extreme Memory Profile (XMP) for easy memory overclocking on supported DDR3 memory kits, as well as a combination of ASRock DuraCap and ASRock Intelligent Energy Saver to ensure longer motherboard lifetime expectancy. Designed with a black PCB with components in an orange,

white and blue scheme, the overall board layout conjures a sense of ingenuity due to its foresight in repositioning certain components, as well as a lowered Southbridge to offer adequate breathing space as more PCI-based hardware are introduced into the board.

In order to accommodate four dual-slot graphic cards on the X58 SuperComputer, its six SATA ports and sole IDE connector are made to face a 90-degree angle while frequently used and essential connectors are moved next to the RAM slots. The rear panel of the board has an eSATA/USB combo connector, both coaxial and optical S/PDIF-out ports, in addition to the usual audio jacks, six USB ports and two PS/2 ports. Performance-wise, the X58 SuperComputer does not disappoint, delivering an impressive PCMark05 score of 8851, a step above our previously reviewed X58 boards given the boost in the CPU and graphics departments. Gaming will not be an issue, especially with scores of 15814 for 3DMark06 and 57.1 FPS on Company of Heroes. ASRock also bundles two CrossFire X bridges and three varying types of SLI bridges.

Although our first instinct was to insert the RAM sticks into the blue-colored DIMM slots, the ones in white are in reality the "bank 0" DIMM slots. Our review unit initially had issues detecting one of the three DDR3

RAM sticks should all of them be used concurrently. A simple BIOS update to the latest (at press time) v1.30 via Vista or DOS solved the issue. ASRock continues to demonstrate their creativity and unique approach when it comes to motherboard design, and the X58 SuperComputer is a perfect example of combining the latest Intel chipset technology with the unprecedented four double-wide spacing PCIe x16 slots seldom seen in X58 motherboards of this caliber.

SPECIFICATIONS

Chipset	QPI	Memory	Graphics	Price
X58	6.4 GT/s	DDR3	CrossFire X + SLI	RM 1099

Model : X58 SuperComputer
Processors Support : Intel LGA1366 for 45nm Core i7 with 6.4 GT/s QPI (QuickPath Interconnect)
Memory Support : Up to 24GB 3-channel DDR3 2000/1866/1600/1333/1066 MHz
PCI Express Slots : 4x PCI-e x16 / 3x PCI
Drives Support : 6x SATA (all with RAID support), 1x IDE (two devices), 1x floppy
I/Os : 11x USB, 1x eSATA/USB combo, 2x Gigabit RJ-45, 2x PS/2, 2x 1394a, 1x coaxial SPDIF out, 1x optical SPDIF out
Warranty : Two-years
Contact : Planet Technology (M) Sdn Bhd
Telephone : (03) 5032 3888
URL : www.asrock.com

Available at

PLAZA LOW YAT
shopping centre

HWM'S VERDICT

Features: **9.0**
Performance: **8.5**
Value: **8.5**

8.5
Out of 10

Quad CrossFire X or 3-way SLI, the X58 SuperComputer supports them all!

HWM SILVER AWARD

Performance Test Results:
Great
Average Frame Rate: 57.1 fps
Maximum Frame Rate: 60.5 fps
Minimum Frame Rate: 32.9 fps
Done

Results
PCMark Score: 8851
CPU Score: 8689
Memory Score: 8235
Graphics Score: 13701
HDD Score: 4586