Mitre Corp., Harvard University announce nanotech breakthrough

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Researchers at McLean-based Mitre Corp. and Harvard University have jointly produced what they say is the first programmable nanoprocessor.

The microscopic mesh of circuits is extremely energy-efficient and could drive advances in electronics, according to the scientific journal Nature, which described the technology in a paper published Wednesday.

“Because of their very small size and very low power requirements, these new nanoprocessor circuits are building blocks that can control and enable an entirely new class of much smaller, lighter weight electronic sensors and consumer electronics,” said Mitre engineer Shamik Das, who was the chief architect for the nanoprocessor, in a statement.

Mitre — a nonprofit group that serves the Defense Department, Federal Aviation Administration and other agencies — collaborated on the project with a team at Harvard led by top nanoscientist Charles Lieber.

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