

## Recommended high-end workstation Sun Ultra 20 M2 by Sun Microsystems (*modified*)

**most appropriate for:** rendering and imaging, complex tasks requiring reliability;

**pros:** cost-performance, high manufacturing quality and entry to server-class hardware;

**cons:** complex custom configuration and required specific search of components;

**raw price of system and components:** 1,500 euros (inc. VAT)



- **Operating System(s):** triple-boot configuration, with Windows XP Professional SP2, Linux Fedora, Sun Solaris (native), and VMWare Workstation on Windows XP;  
*Best versatility in programming and for widest overall scope of computer system;*
- **Processor:** AMD Opteron 1210 (Dual Core, 1.8 Ghz, 1Mb cache L2, socket AM2);  
*Cheapest entry to Opterons, with direct upgrade path to AMD Opteron Quad Core (1xxx series), expected late December 2007, and beyond, since AM2 socket offers forward compatibility;*
- **Motherboard:** Munich, chipset NVIDIA MCP55 Pro;
- **RAM:** 4 Gb RAM ECC unbuffered (2x2Gb 677 Mhz, max 8Gb);
- **Video Card:** ATI Sapphire Radeon X1950 Pro 512Mb (Dual DVI + S-VHS out);  
*Best cost-performance for high 3D rendering power with a large installed VRAM;*
- **Storage:** Seagate Cheetah 73Gb Ultra SCSI 15000 rpm, with Adaptec Ultra SCSI controller (for system installation) + Seagate Barracuda ES 500Gb SATA-II (for data storage);  
*“Older” Ultra SCSI disks offer the highest single-disk performance to-date, superior manufacturing quality, and they can also be found at much lower prices than SAS disks (and controllers). Server-class disks (ES series) are better than failure-prone consumer-class disks;*