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Experience of public procurement of Open Compute servers

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The Open Compute Project, OCP (<http://www.opencompute.org/> (link is external)), was launched by Facebook in 2011 with the objective of building efficient computing infrastructures at lowest possible cost. The technologies are released as open hardware, with the goal to develop servers and data centers following the model traditionally associated with open source software projects. In 2013 CERN acquired a few OCP servers in order to compare performance and power consumption with standard hardware. The conclusions were that there are sufficient savings to motivate an attempt to procure a large scale installation. One objective is to evaluate if the OCP market is sufficiently mature and broad to meet the constraints of a public procurement. This talk will summarize this procurement, which started in September 2014 and involved the Request for information (RFI) to qualify bidders and Request for Tender (RFT).

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