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Department of Mathematics  
University College London  
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7 November 2011

Dear Professor Bishop

As Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University, I am pleased to confirm Cardiff University's strong support for the FuturICT proposal for a Future Emerging Technologies programme flagship.

Located in the capital of Wales, Cardiff University is a member of the Russell Group of Britain's leading research-intensive universities with a broad base of research activity. Our research strategy is focused on better understanding the world from different perspectives, notably the living world, the physical world, the human world and the cultural world, through which we are tackling some of the major future challenges facing humanity. Cardiff University has made major investments to advance this interdisciplinary approach, including establishing three new Research Institutes as a key part of its strategy to enable world-leading, agenda-setting research. Research has also been supported by multi-million pound investment in world-leading computing facilities that enable new levels of complexity and support knowledge discovery.

I believe that the mission of the FuturICT consortium is both timely and fundamental, being consistent also with the research agenda supported by Cardiff University. In particular, developing and applying a new understanding and new knowledge about the world is at the core of our mission. As such it gives me great pleasure to see such a bold and fundamental project proposal of international scale.

For these reasons Cardiff University wholeheartedly supports the FuturICT project. Through the leadership of Professor Roger Whitaker, Cardiff University shall provide to the project access to a portfolio of expertise, relationships and activity that combines relevant international research excellence conducted and tested in a Welsh context, with strong local interactions and a diverse population that is governed through a devolved National Assembly based in Cardiff. I believe this can provide an excellent environment to engage diverse stakeholders on a national scale - in essence a point of access to a unique "test nation", as coined by Professor Whitaker. Undoubtedly this is a distinctive and innovative way to add value to the FuturICT mission. I look forward to seeing these developments flourish between the FuturICT consortium and Cardiff University through continued collaboration in this hugely important international research effort.

Yours sincerely,

Dr David Grant  
Vice-Chancellor

cc: Professor Dr Dirk Helbing, Chair of Sociology (Modelling & Simulation),  
Department of Humanities, Social & Political Sciences, ETH Zürich