

THE PRESIDENT

EPFL Presidency Phone : + 41 21 693 70 01
Patrick Aebischer Fax : + 41 21 693 70 10
Building CE - 3.316 E-mail : patrick.aebischer@epfl.ch
Station 1 Web site : www.epfl.ch
CH 1015 Lausanne



ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE

Herr Prof. Dr. Dirk Helbing
ETH Zürich
Clausiusstrasse 50
8092 Zürich

Professor Steven Bishop
University College London
Kathleen Lonsdale Building
Gower Street
London WC1E 6BT

Our/ref. PAe/gp

April 24, 2012

EPFL support for the FutureICT flagship

Dear Professor Helbing, Dear Professor Bishop,

With this letter EPFL expresses its endorsement and financial commitment to join the FutureICT program as a core signing partner.

EPFL as an engineering school highly recognizes and values the importance of interdisciplinary research as envisaged in the programme. The programme is fully aligned with EPFL's objective to ensure the societal relevance and impact of its engineering research. EPFL is particularly concerned with research improving the economic and ecological sustainability of our world to which the programme aims to contribute. EPFL as one of the leading research universities and one of the most cosmopolitan technical universities in Europe highly values international collaboration as to be realized in FutureICT. Through its Science Park and its technology transfer office EPFL sees also high potential for technology transfer in collaborations with industrial partners and in creating new startup companies.

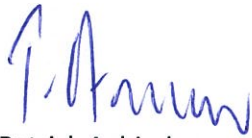
EPFL will be represented in FutureICT through its School of Computer and Communication Sciences, a strategic pillar of EPFL and that has seen significant growth in the past years. It is one of the top IT departments in Europe with 30% of the faculty enjoying an ERC grant, the highest ratio in Europe. The school has strong expertise in core areas relevant for FutureICT, such as environmental monitoring, cloud computing and computational trust. This expertise has been systematically built through recruiting over the past years and through running relevant research initiatives such as the Swiss National Center on Mobile Information and Communication Systems NCCR-MICS and the EcoCloud center. The school is also planning in parallel to FutureICT the establishment of a Swiss Competence Center of Research in a closely related area such as data-driven network science. The faculty is entertaining close interdisciplinary collaborations with various fields, including environmental science, life science and social and human sciences.

Assuming an annual budget estimate of 2 million Euros for the EPFL participation, we expect 50% of the budget to be funded by the European Commission, 25% as cash contribution by EPFL and another 25% as in-kind contribution by EPFL. The cash contribution will be in form of a new tenure track position related to the field of network science. The in-kind contribution will be in form of time spent by faculty members and senior researchers participating to the programme and use of EPFL infrastructure.

EPFL would also be ready to take care of the participation of scientist from Swiss non-core institutions, in particular from the French speaking region in Switzerland. The commitment of EPFL will of course depend on the approval of the expected contributions of the European Commission.

EPFL fully endorses the vision of FutureICT of making our planet a safer place by better understanding the complex mechanisms that drive its evolution and taking full advantage of the new means data-driven science promises to offer today. EPFL is looking forward in participating in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Patrick Aebischer
President