

20 December 2011

Professor Sir Brian Hoskins CBE FRS
Director

To whom it may concern

As Director of the Grantham Institute for Climate Change at Imperial College London, I would like to express both my deep interest and support for the proposed FET Flagship FuturICT.

The Grantham Institute was founded with a mandate to drive forward climate change related research, and to translate this into real world impact; communicating our knowledge to help shape policy direction, to inform citizens, and to support decision-making. The Grantham Institute pursues four main research themes, including sustainable futures, vulnerable ecosystems and human well being, extreme climatic events, and earth system science. The Grantham Institute also led the College's participation in a successful bid to the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) to establish a Climate "Knowledge and Innovation Community" (KIC), a major international collaboration between business and academia intended to deliver a step change in Europe's capability to innovate in response to major global challenges.

Therefore the FuturICT proposal is complementary to a number of activities in research, training and innovation undertaken in the Grantham Institute, and we would aim to build on such synergies to produce added-value transformative impact for both the Institute and the Flagship itself. In particular we emphasise the importance of both innovation and policy modeling, as supported by the platforms and observatories envisaged by FuturICT.

Given this range of activities, we support the inter-disciplinary nature of the FuturICT consortium, and although we recognise both the difficulty and significance presented by the challenge of "knowledge acceleration", this is not a challenge we can afford to dodge. The kind of open platforms proposed by FuturICT are critically important for addressing fundamental problems that present and future generations face from climate change and environmental pressure on the planet.

The Grantham Institute welcomes the FuturICT initiative, its concepts and its ambitions, is delighted to give the proposal its strong support to the proposal.

Yours sincerely



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