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Pisa, October 18, 2012

Prof. Dirk Helbing
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
ETH Zurich
Clausiusstrasse 50
Zurich
Switzerland

Dear Prof. Helbing,

the rector of the University of Pisa already stated, in a letter to you, how important the success of the FuturICT proposal is for our University. Here, as the Director of the Computer Science Department, I want to state that we are investing in the creation of a Big Data Center in support of the activities of the FuturICT Project. In particular, we have recently acquired and we are currently installing a Dell Equal Logic Storage system capable of 750 Petabytes, the largest installation in Europe, for a nominal value of € 950.000. The supercomputing system is available in the IT Center, of which my department is a stakeholder. The system will allow conducting large big data mining experiments in virtual main memory with high performance. Two technical staff of the IT Center will maintain the system and facilitate its usage by the data scientists of the FuturICT community. We forecast an effort of 6 man months every year for an estimated cost of € 30.000/year.

Both of the above investments are to be considered “in kind” matching funds that the University of Pisa contributes to the FuturICT Program.

Best regards,

Franco Turini

Direttore del Dipartimento di Informatica