



Fondúireacht Eolaíochta Éireann
Science Foundation Ireland

14th October 2012

To Whom It May Concern

Science Foundation Ireland is the main research funding organization in Ireland. SFI's budget up 2013 is approximately €1.4 billion. An appreciable part of SFI's science and engineering research investments go towards, or have been committed to, thematic areas that include the following: semantic networks and semantic web, future internet, data analytics, e-health, e-infrastructures including smart cities and smart grid, information security, and software engineering in safety critical, evolving systems. Sectoral areas range over banking, health, environment and energy, among other areas, and include open linked data environments, and integrated sensor intelligence.

In this context, I am pleased to write in support of the FuturICT initiative. With its whole system focus, and its innovative approach to complexity, it is responding to the needs of our time in regard to social need, including the needs of our economy.

In general terms, the fit of FuturICT with SFI's existing portfolio of research investments is excellent. Earlier this year the Irish Government announced changes in policy in recognition of the fact that research in Ireland needs to be targeted at areas most likely to deliver economic and social benefit. The 2012 Report of the Research Prioritisation Steering Group has identified fourteen areas upon which SFI will focus over the coming decade and our investments will concentrate on these, subject to refinement in future prioritisation exercises. The scope of the FuturICT programme is directly aligned with

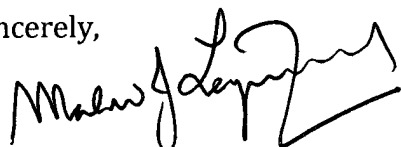
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three of Ireland's research priority areas, namely priority areas B: "Data Analytics, Management, Security and Privacy", C: "Digital Platforms, Content, and Applications" and N: "Innovation in Services and Business Processes".

I wish FuturICT every success.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark WJ Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Prof Mark WJ Ferguson
Director General
Science Foundation Ireland