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Subject: Letter of support to FuturICT

The Ministry of higher education, science and technology as the leading government entity sees the FuturICT project as one of the most important projects that could underpin the research agenda on the national strategic level. The perspective of this project in Slovenia is to facilitate the academic as well as commercial research and development activities in the field of ICT by pushing forward ever more important interdisciplinary research teams combined from ICT experts to mathematicians and social science engineers.

The support and willingness to participate in the project has expressed leading research and higher educational organizations, among other University of Ljubljana and Jozef Stefan Institute. Considerable interest in the project has been presented also by leading companies in the field of distributed and high performance computing.

Slovenian government already intensively support RTD activities, which are in line with the research objectives of the FuturICT. In addition we intent to support the FutureICT activities through introduction in various national RTD activities, where we intent to provide this support through various means (i.e. grants for research projects). In the current perspective the plan is to provide for around 4 Million EUR of grants for the RTD activities in the area, which totals around 10 Million of total money (including finances provided by the individual organizations). The support for the program can be executed through targeted research projects (national funding scheme) or similar. An extension of the project up to the maximum duration of the flagship program is envisaged, if the financial and political situation of the country allows.

dr. Igor LUKŠIČ

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