

The Complex Systems Society

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Prof Dirk Helbing
ETH Zurich
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Dear Professor Helbing

Complex Systems Society Support for the FuturIcT Flagship Project

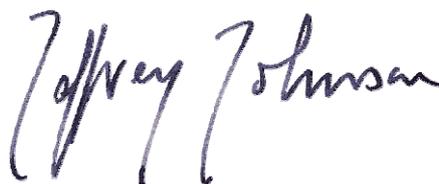
I write on behalf of the Complex Systems Society to express our commitment to the proposed FuturIcT Flagship Project. This proposal has our strongest support.

The Complex Systems Society was created in Europe through the ONCE-CS coordination action of the Future and Emerging Technology (FET) unit of the European Commission . Ten years ago FET had the vision to see that the emerging science of complex system would have a profound impact on every aspect of European Society, providing new ICT-enabled solutions to problems that traditional physical, biological, environmental and social science cannot solve by themselves. Complex systems is a synthesis that integrates the traditional sciences, adding new layers of understanding and enabling new technologies for exploitation in the private and public sectors. Through the support of the European Commission and national funding agencies, Europe has become a world leader in complex systems science. With a membership exceeding two thousand people, the Complex Systems Society is a large and heterogeneous community of scientists, entrepreneurs and policy makers developing and applying the new science.

The complex systems community believes that the FuturIcT Flagship will be one the most profound scientific initiatives of the twenty first century, and it will have a great impact in the short and long terms. The major challenges faced by humankind are complex systems problems - from adapting to climate change and its geo-socio-politico-economic consequences, to providing reliable science to underpin global and national finances, to creating a new *in-vivo* biological science on which to base pharmaceuticals and medical practice, to creating new methods to study epidemics of viral and socially induced illness, to producing the new theoretical understanding necessary for geopolitical and military stability in the face of the many global challenges that lie ahead. Humankind needs to integrate *all* its knowledge from all domains into new science able to address the new kinds of problem that emerge in our ever more connected world. The FuturIcT programme is a unique opportunity for Europe to grasp the scientific initiative and create new science to enable it to survive and even thrive in the turbulent times that lie ahead.

We offer our full support to the FuturIcT Flagship and we want to work with you to make this extraordinary vision become a reality. For scientists this a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in a programme of revolutionary scientific discovery and unprecedented social innovation. The Complex Systems Society and its members are excited by the prospect of making a quantum leap in science and its applications through the visionary FuturIcT Flagship project.

Assuring you of our full support, yours sincerely



Professor Jeffrey Johnson
President