

30th November 2010

To whom it may concern

Flagship FuturICT

As Director of the Oxford Martin School, I am very pleased to confirm our great interest in and strong support for the FuturICT proposal for a FET Flagship.

The Oxford Martin School (formerly the James Martin 21st Century School) was founded through the vision and generosity of Dr James Martin, who gave a benefaction of \$100 million to the University of Oxford to establish the School in 2005. The School is a unique, interdisciplinary research initiative that has the mission to address the key challenges that our global society faces in the 21st Century. In 2009, Dr James Martin pledged another \$50 million in matching funds to the School. Matching donations of well over this amount were secured from more than 30 different donors (individual philanthropists, charities, corporations and research bodies) and created 19 new research programmes that joined the School. As a result of this expansion, the School relaunched under the new name of Oxford Martin School in Autumn 2010. Research in the Oxford Martin School is clustered around four broad themes: Health & Medicine; Energy & Environment; Technology & Society; Ethics & Governance. The theme of greatest relevance to FuturICT, Technology & Society, provides an umbrella for a number of Institutes and Programmes. These include: the Institute for Economic Modelling; the Institute for the Future of Computing; the Institute for Science, Innovation and Society; the International Migration Institute; the Oxford Institute of Ageing; the Programme on Future Technologies; the Programme on the Future of Cities. These Institutes and Programmes do not only provide a strong interdisciplinary focus on major societal challenges, but are also integrated and cross-linked through their membership of the School.

FuturICT's ambition of combining advances in computer science and related technologies with novel approaches to the social sciences is very much in line with the existing interests and activities of the School, especially since the stated aim of FuturICT is to use these scientific breakthroughs to tackle difficult and important real-world problems. Beyond new ways of combining computer science and the social sciences, a further crucial ingredient of the FuturICT proposal is provided by the emerging interdisciplinary field of complexity science. The School already has significant interests in complex systems research, through the programme that is led by Dr Felix Reed-Tsochas at the Institute of Science, Innovation and Society. It is anticipated that these activities will scale up in the near future, in collaboration with Oxford University's CABDyN Complexity Centre, and serve as an important connecting link between the different thematic interests represented in the School. Hence, there is a very close



JAMES MARTIN 21ST CENTURY SCHOOL

alignment between the proposed development of FuturICT activities, and the capabilities and objectives of the Oxford Martin School. The School is therefore very well placed to contribute substantially to the FuturICT agenda, and is committed to playing a significant role as FuturICT activities unfold.

In conclusion, the Oxford Martin School strongly supports the FuturICT Flagship proposal, is committed to participating fully in the initial Coordination Action, and looks forward to many opportunities for active engagement and collaboration as the programme develops. We believe that this an important and significant initiative, and hope that others will share our interest and sense of excitement.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ian Goldin", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ian

Ian Goldin
Director
Professorial Fellow, Balliol College