Business and Industrial Partners
Dear Dr. Dirk Helbing,

This is a letter of strong support for the FuturICT Flagship Initiative coming from GVC Gaesco Gestion, S.G.I.I.C. (GVCGaesco), a more than 20 years old asset manager, who has developed in the last 10 years a quantitative approach to absolute return funds, which is today one of the two strengths of the company together with the long only equity funds which are being managed in a fundamental way.

GVCGaesco heavily relies on fundamental research to decide about investment opportunities and to apply quantitative methods for absolute return funds and to face different aspects as the internal cycles in the market and the investors behaviour. We keep close links with academia, by having an agreement with an external research team in the University of Barcelona for more than 10 years now and by internal means as well.

We are of course deeply interested in understanding in details how financial markets and the economy at large work. This is crucial to come up with adequate quantitative models. We have witnessed on several occasions the occurrence of collective effects that lead to crises, and understand the view of the system in which we live, with its interconnections, interactions and feedback loops. We are confronted to a situation surprisingly hard to accept for the human brain: the behaviour of crowds is sometimes impossible to guess from the behaviour of individuals, we tend to think that it has its own rules. We think that there is a lot to do in defining investor behaviour in different market environments. We think that many current intuitions will be modelized in the future.

I am enthusiastic that the the FuturICT Flagship Initiative is willing to take a big step in that direction, and GVC Gaesco could be interested in participating in one way or another to the project.

Best regards,

Jaume Puig

CEO & CIO of GVC Gaesco Gestión, S.G.I.I.C.
Rome, 24 November 2011

To: Wolfgang BOCH  
European Commission  
DG – INFSO / FET-Proactive  
F1 (BU25 - 05/24)  
B-1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Cc:  
Prof. Dirk Helbing  
ETH – Zurich  
CLU E 1  
Clausiusstraße 50  
8092 Zurich  
Rosaria Conte  
ISTC-CNR,  
Via San Martino della Battaglia 44,  
00185 Rome, Italy

Dear Dr. Boch,

Almaviva The Italian Innovation Company S.p.A. ("Almaviva") is interested in supporting the FuturiICT Coordination Action ("FuturiICT").

This project is of strategic interest for our Organization because it will provide innovative methods and instruments to improve the economy of the involved Countries.

In particular, we strongly support FuturiICT and confirm strong Almaviva's interest in actively contributing to the success of this initiative.

In particular, we would actively collaborate with your team and the projects in those key research areas related to the development of new services and solutions within the future internet context.

Please note that this letter is not intended to create any legal obligation for Almaviva.

Looking forward to FuturiICT winning the second round of the competition, I would like to express my personal appreciation for the radical innovation in research funding introduced by the FET Unit by launching this flagship initiative.

Best regards,

Alessandra Raffone  
Director Innovation & Funding for Innovation
Tomi Illjaš, CEO  
Director  
Arctur d.o.o., Nova Gorica, Slovenia  
November 11, 2011  

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my full support and interest in the FuturiICT flagship initiative, which is coordinated by Professor Dirk Hebling of ETH Zurich, Switzerland.

I am the director and owner of the company. My main competences are in sales management, particularly sales of high-tech solutions, which our company develops and offers to clients. Furthermore, in conjunction with the management team, I strive to build a competent and motivated workforce. I founded Arctur twenty years ago. In the early years we focused on hardware and creating web pages, while in the past ten years we have shifted our focus to research and development in the field of information technology. We have our own registered research and development division, which operates independently, that concentrates on the development of innovative web applications. In the last three years a significant part of our attention has shifted to HPC solutions and related services, ranging from XaaS, to 3D animation, to parallelization. We are a company which currently employs thirty people, are project oriented and are constantly searching for new opportunities.

I am convinced that the philosophy and vision of our company fits with those of FuturiICT, especially because we are research oriented and constantly searching for new opportunities. As I have already mentioned, our competences, particularly those associated with the development of innovative applications as well as HPC solutions, would contribute to the sustainable development of our society.

Because we are a company constantly in search few new and advanced opportunities, I am convinced that our participation in an innovative initiative such as FuturiICT will be a key milestone in the future of our company.

Sincerely,

Tomi Illjaš, CEO
Dear Pr Helbing

This is a letter of strong support for the FutuRlct Flagship Initiative coming from Capital Fund Management (CFM), a nearly 20 year-old quantitative hedge fund founded and run by physicists and IT engineers.

CFM heavily relies on fundamental research to create trading systems and manage risks of all kinds, in particular crash risk and systemic risk. We keep close links with academia, by teaching in several “Grandes Ecoles”, participating to workshops and conferences and writing scientific papers. We have also launched a foundation that finances PhD grants for exceptional students in hard science.

We are of course deeply interested in understanding in details how financial markets and the economy at large work. This is crucial to come up with adequate quantitative models of risks. We have witnessed on several occasions the occurrence of collective effects that lead to crises, and understand (from our physics background) that these effects cannot be understood without a global (some say ‘holoptic’ – see http://people.thetransitioner.org/) view of the system in which we live, with its interconnections, interactions and feedback loops. We are confronted to a situation surprisingly hard to accept for the human brain: the behaviour of crowds is sometimes impossible to guess from the behaviour of individuals, for which we have good intuition. But this intuition is lost when it comes to large groups.

Numerical simulation was invented during the Manhattan project. It has been used with success to improve nuclear weapons, to simulate airplane profiles, to send people to the moon, to find new materials, new molecules, new drugs, etc. But it has up to now received relatively little attention to simulate economies and societies, at least much less than these problems deserve in view of their importance for the lives of people (on this point, see: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/01/opinion/01buchanan.html and D. Farmer, D. Foley, The economy needs agent based modeling, Nature August 2009). I am enthusiastic that the the FutuRlct Flagship Initiative is willing to take a big step in that direction, and CFM could be interested in participating in one way or another to the project.

Best regards,

JP Bouchaud
Chairman of CFM and Professor at Ecole Polytechnique (Paris)
November 24, 2011

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my interest in and wish to bring active support for the FuturlICT flagship initiative.

CASH PEER LTD is a freshly incorporated company aiming to develop a novel approach of mobile payment using QR codes. We are working on developing a solution reconciling need-based with global market solutions as well as a payment architecture that comes the closest to the simple expression of cash money.

At the top of our assumptions we are considering, a global market in which availability of data service is asymmetric and congestion in data networks is likely to occur with the increase of Internet traffic. Our payment system intends to be universal regardless the medium used or the geographic location of users. Authentication of payments by geolocation is one of our major innovative moves toward offering same class services in big cities or in remote villages in Africa, in this context we join the philosophy of “one laptop per child initiative” and we’ll be benefiting from operation in the near future of Galileo, Glonass (RU) and Beidou (CN). Technically the QR code issued by a payer represents electronic transcription of cash enclosing among its encryption data geolocation coordinates of the payer at time t, on the other hand, recipient’s coordinates are calculated and confronted to the payer’s at time of code scanning; the payment is authorized upon a match of both. This dynamic approach has the advantage of being unique for every transaction and enough random to be used for encryption, particularly if accurate location data is available.

Universality of CASH PEER will not be at the expense of safety. Indeed, all transactions will be executed from and to a secure server regardless the medium used, be it a smartphone, a tablet, a personal computer, a digital display or a piece of paper. Furthermore transactions must be executed within a certain time lapse after which the QR code becomes obsolete, hence transactions will be carried out on real time and swiftly, if not instantaneously, limiting drastically breaches in security. History data will then be reported on a map to be viewed and kept in records for both payers and recipients. Another aspect of mobile payment we are working on is the payment with email which we believe would offer a set of conveniences for users in matters of legal binding, ease of record keeping and the possibility of paying to websites in an active mode (by opposition to passive mode wherein the payer accepts or scans the QR code like in Google wallet for example) which is an important application missing from QR code mobile payment to date.

It is agreed that the mobile technology is going to be our century’s driver into ubiquitous interconnected environments; perspectives of growth of the mobile industry are at two digits, penetration of the mobile industry in emerging markets is increasing alongside with expected migration from basic mobile phones to smartphones due to price cuts. We believe, the major challenge of solutions to be deployed for mobile payment in emerging markets is the implication of the unbanked having an IP address. To this regard, users of our service will have the possibility to open a mobile payment account through IP service subscription details and then deposit money by means of prepaid vouchers or via agents. The Internet of the future will be much faster and smarter embracing real world objects or “things”, money is one of these things that will very likely turn fully mobile driven, CASH PEER does it without impacting the tangible characteristic of cash money; we would speak rather of “digital cash” than mobile payment.

In conclusion, I would confess that when I first saw the screenshot of FuturlICT documentary on your website I had no doubt I was in the right place. You will probably agree with me saying that it inspires geolocation. Feeling to be on the same wavelength with your project and state of mind I am willing to collaborate with conviction and fully adhere to your initiative.

Sincerely,

Firass Seridi
Director
31st November 2011

Dear Mr McCarthy,

I was delighted to attend the Open Data event earlier this month at UCC.

In particular, I found your presentation around the FuturICT project very interesting.

As you are aware the Central Statistics Office publishes significant amount of information in an open and user friendly way. However, given the changing nature, complexities and what I term the data deluge in today’s world (as described in your presentation) I do not believe our information is connecting with users in the best way possible in order to maximise its value.

The FuturICT project, combining the idea of connecting information in an organic way with a wide ranging team of experts is a very exciting prospect. As such I am very interested in following this project as it progresses and engaging with the project to see how Official Statistics can better inform the world we live in today.

I wish the project every success.

Yours Sincerely

John Dunne
Head of Division
Administrative Data, Methods and Quality
February 1, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my interest in and support for the FuturlICT flagship project and its mission to understand and manage complex, global, socially interactive systems.

The growth in scale and interconnectedness of technological, social, and financial systems continues. Within these global ecosystems, cities are increasingly inter-connected by modern communications and widespread migration. City leaders increasingly seek to harness the possibilities of technology and new financial thinking to address critical efficiency reform, modernize urban infrastructure, and provide socially inclusive access to public services. By embracing transformation, they seek to enhance citizens' quality of life and improve their city’s prospects in the international competition for talent and investment.

Cities are where innovation, capital and people generate prosperity and advance society. They are where citizens strive to achieve, businesses seize opportunities and drive growth, and governments create the conditions for success. More than half the world’s population now lives in urban areas. As a result, cities are under pressure to address accelerating urbanization. Projects like FuturlICT have the potential to further our understanding of the dynamics of social, technological and financial systems and to help us uncover the solutions that cities and citizens will need tomorrow.

At Citi we look forward to following FuturlICT’s progress and to exploring ways to support their efforts.

Sincerely,

Ken Moore
Director – Citi Innovation Labs

Brian Hayes
Managing Director – Citi Ireland
To FuturICT Spain,
This is a letter of full support for the FuturICT Flagship Initiative coming from CONCEPTUAL KLT Knowledge, Logistics And Technology S.L.

CONCEPTUAL KLT is a start-up company, born in the University of Cantabria (UC), on October, 2007 and sited in the Center of Technological Development (CDTUC) of the Civil Engineering School. It was established by UC teaching personnel and professional staff with a huge experience in new technology field applied to transport and logistics sector.

CONCEPTUAL KLT, is a limited company which target is the design and implementation of strategies for generating, transmitting and applying the knowledge to organizations and institutions for their technological and logistic development, likewise R&D related to the implementation of new technologies in the organizations linked to logistics and transport.

CONCEPTUAL carries out its activity in the following working lines:

- Development of R&D projects.
- Defense of intellectual resources by patenting the innovating elements and the aims achieved.
- Launching offers to R&D announcements in order to develop new products related to the activity of CONCEPTUAL KLT.

CONCEPTUAL KLT has three open working lines to place R&D projects and contracts under way. These lines are:

- Introduction of crowdsourcing, software collaborations platforms and knowledge social networks, like web 2.0, for our institutional and private clients.
- Development of intelligent transport systems (ITS) and “Internet of Things”.
- Innovation in the maritime and port management, boosting comodality in the rail and port node and developing “cloud computing” applications.
MAIN PROJECTS

LIST OF THE MAIN WORKS CARRIED OUT including R&D projects and client’s assignments:

- “RFID system for the management of people, luggage and package” project, approved by the 1st Industrial Cooperation in Cantabria Official Announcement, under the framework of the Regional R&D Plan, in collaboration with de Companies ALSA and PINDIATEC (2008-2012).


- “CoModalWeb 2.0” project, published by the Spanish Official State Bulletin (BOE) the 5th of January of 2009, under the official announcement of National Program for the Public/Private Cooperation, which belongs to the Transport and Infrastructure projects (2008-2011).

- “Marnis” project, which is a R&D project under the European Commission VI Framework Programme (2004-2008), acting CONCEPTUAL as a subcontractor of one the partners, the Company PORTEL, which provides telematics services to the Spanish ports.

- “Skema” project, (Sustainable Knowledge Platform for the European Maritime and Logistics Industry, 2008-2009), which is a project under the VII Framework Programme funded by the DG TREN, acting CONCEPTUAL as a subcontractor of one the partners, the Company PORTEL.

- “Comillas Community” project, for the development of a knowledge social network as a web 2.0, ordered by Fundación Comillas (2008-2009).

- “UIMP 2.0” project, for the development of a knowledge social network of the International University Menendez Pelayo (2008-2011).

- “SILE” project, (Efficient Logistic System In and Out of Ports), approved by the 2nd Industrial Cooperation in Cantabria Official Announcement,
under the framework of the Regional R&D Plan, in collaboration with de Company GLOBAL STEEL WIRE (2009-2011).

- "PACE" Project, (Open collaborative business platform), approved in 2010 by the Funding for the promotion of Industrial Cooperation in Cantabria, in collaboration with the Association of Automotive Forum of Cantabria – Regional Initiatives Automotive Group (GIRA).

- "TELMAR" Project, (Technologies and Logistics for the Offshore renewal Energies), approved in the 2011 by the Funding to promote R&D of renewal energies in Cantabria, for the design and planning of a logistic coordination centre, in collaboration with MUNDIVIA (2011-2013).

- "COMPROFES" Project, (Platform for the World Congress of Teachers of Spanish. Forty-eight hours of live programming a la carte involved in the teaching of Spanish: a major international virtual conference organized by the Institute Cervantes on his 20th Anniversary) 2011.

- "INNOTRANSER" Project, (Simulation platform for the development of innovative solutions for the transport of goods among big capacity main roads) approved in 2011 in the INNPACTO National program.

Our small company wants to participate in FuturICT because, to really understand the world around us, we must adopt a much more holistic approach, seeking out the patterns and deep dynamics that shape broader more complex systems. We embrace change because it provides a powerful catalyst for growth and learning.

We can contribute with our experience in "Pull" models that can also be platforms for creating "increasing returns dynamics." This is due to "pull" models being based around loose and flexible networks that are already configured to scale as growth occurs. Pull platform key characteristics include modular and loosely-coupled networks, open channels that better harness the passion and commitment of innovation communities. "Pull" platforms also will tend to influence public policy with regards to education and innovation, as more companies tend to gravitate towards the "pull" models.

Miguel Angel Pesquera González
President
To Whom It May Concern:

One of the goals of FuturICT is to address the grand challenges in socio-economic sciences such as building models for understanding complex financial and economic patterns or human-machine social networks. Solving these challenges in such a way that society can immediately benefit requires a multi-disciplinary effort on the part of both scientists and practitioners from various fields. The scientific discipline guarantees creative exploration of new avenues while the practitioners' dimension aims to make sure that the project stays focused and solves problems that are applicable in practice.

The approach that FuturICT takes closely reflects the philosophy of Credit Suisse AG, where understanding and reacting to changes in complex markets with dependencies on sophisticated computer application landscapes is key. For example, with the Enterprise Computing Centre, Credit Suisse AG has created strong collaborative relationships with academic and industry partners to address and solve large-scale problems.

Credit Suisse AG is supportive of FuturICT and looks forward to seeing groundbreaking new insights with medium to long-term solutions of wide reach and applicability.

Yours sincerely,

Kurt Stockinger
Data Warehouse and Business Intelligence Architect
Credit Suisse AG

Michael Pastuch
Enterprise Computing Centre Advisory
Head of Chief Risk Officer Architecture
Credit Suisse AG

Stephan Murer
Chief Architect
Credit Suisse AG
Date
23 November 2011

Subject: Letter of Support FuturICT

To whom it may concern:

In my capacity as President of De Nederlandsche Bank, I would like to express our great interest and support for the FuturICT Flagship initiative. This long term research proposal where complex systems and advanced ICT tools are combined to address fundamental problems, not only in physics and biology but also in economics, provides a pioneering new scientific research agenda for the 21st century.

The economy is a complex evolving system of interacting heterogeneous economic agents. Interactions of individual economic agents can lead to outcomes that are characterised by complicated patterns. These outcomes can be global phenomena such as herd-behaviour in strongly correlated financial markets, intermittent fluctuations with bubbles and crashes, and global macro-economic instability. As the recent financial crisis has shown, policy makers’ current toolbox is unable to deal with extreme situations and out-of-equilibrium dynamics. Complexity offers a new view on macroeconomic and financial phenomena where non-linearities play an important role. This is of key interest to De Nederlandsche Bank.

De Nederlandsche Bank has already been actively involved in complex methods in economics. Recently, a research conference on “Complex Systems: Towards a Better Understanding of Financial Stability and Crises” was organized at its premises in joint cooperation with the Center of Non-linear Dynamics for Economics and Finance (CeNDEF). Moreover, this joint cooperation has also resulted in a first paper on behavioural heterogeneity in housing markets (“Complex Methods in Economics: An Example of Behavioural Heterogeneity in House Prices”) that will soon appear as part of our DNB working paper series.

Therefore, De Nederlandsche Bank is fully supportive of the EU’s FuturICT Flagship initiative and its ambition. Its research agenda is well aligned with parts of our own research activities. We confirm our interest and look forward to active collaboration in this exciting initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Klaas Knot
Letter of Intent
from Disney Research Zurich in support of FuturICT

I am writing this letter to express Disney Research Zurich’s (DRZ) support of the flagship project “The FuturICT Knowledge Accelerator – Exploring and Managing our Future.” DRZ is an industrial research laboratory located in Zurich, Switzerland and established on May 1st, 2008 as a research partnership between The Walt Disney Company and Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich (ETH Zurich). The mission of our lab is to perform advanced application-oriented research that is of critical interest to the core businesses of The Walt Disney Company. Topics include computer graphics, visualization, animation, computer vision, wireless and mobile computing, physically-based simulation, video technology, virtual environments, interactive entertainment, and non-photorealistic rendering. Although the lab is backed financially by Disney, it operates as an independent Swiss company, The Walt Disney Company (Switzerland) GmbH.

DRZ has an open, community-oriented policy with regard to research and aims to publish results in respected academic journals and conferences. We actively foster collaborative relationships with academics at European institutions and are already involved as a consortium partner in several EU projects, including FI-CONTENT, REVERIE, and CALIPSO. The FuturICT project is an ideal candidate for further EU collaboration and would be mutually beneficial for all participants. Especially, core FuturICT topics related to data visualization, data mining, and data-driven simulation are of critical importance to Disney's social media gaming business, such as our Playdom division which has 47 million monthly active users. Our strategic interest in augmented-reality gaming technology connects directly to data visualization and social simulations. FuturICT research related to the Living Earth Simulator could connect to our existing work in virtual worlds. Disney already operates several online virtual environments, such as Club Penguin, Pixie Hollow, Pirates of the Caribbean Online, World of Cars Online, Toontown Online, and the Virtual Magic Kingdom. These environments might provide interesting testing opportunities for the FuturICT platform, and the research results would likely contribute to more compelling Disney environments.

If the FuturICT project is funded, DRZ will be an active participant and is willing to take part in research and offer advice, guidance, and real-world industrial experience throughout the project’s duration. Since FuturICT encompasses novel research areas that are of critical interest to DRZ and the greater business initiatives of The Walt Disney Company, DRZ is interested in participating in the development of prototype demonstrators and related work.

Best regards,

Prof. Dr. Markus Gross
Director, Disney Research Zurich
Dear Mrs. Conte,

Engineering Engegneria Informatica SpA is strategically involved in the wide majority of the European initiatives related with the development of the services' economy through ITC. In fact, the Company is one of the 16 industrial promoters of the Future Internet initiative and a key member of highly relevant ETPs like NESSI and NEM. In addition, since 2012, due to the approval of "EIT ICT Italy Lab" as sixth European node of the "EIT ICT Labs", Engineering will become a core partner of this KIC.

For these reasons, I would like to express our full support to the FuturICT Coordination Action, and to confirm the strong interest of Engineering to actively collaborate to the success of this initiative.

In particular, we would consider highly important to actively collaborate with your team and with the projects in those key research areas related to the development of new services and new services' delivery models within the Future Internet context. Consistently, provided the approval of the FuturICT after the second round of the evaluation, we are ready to contribute to its success by making available competencies and specific SW assets.

Kind regards

Dario Avallone
To Whom It May Concern:

As a coordinator of one of the biggest R&D projects (www.kc-class.eu) on cloud computing in Europe and CEO of the organization dealing with R&D issues in ICT area, I would like to express my great support and interest in the FuturICT flagship initiative.

I am very thrilled by the FuturICT agenda which is tackling some of the most topical issues of our world and what is more the FuturICT project is doing that in most comprehensive way and from the most challenging perspectives. FuturICT will use our information knowledge to better understand society which is one of the one of the most elementary understanding which we should have in order to guide our society most appropriately in the long term. Precisely the information knowledge is the field where our research institution is the strongest. Research in our laboratory is based on cloud computing, service oriented architectures and integration of information systems. We are involved in many projects covering fields of semantics, cloud assisted services and communication platforms. I believe that our expertise in integration and interoperability of information systems, architecture and platforms with related services is the foundation on which we should develop our future research and tie it with the FuturICT and the Living Earth Platform.

I believe that our work and research activity is very accordant with the FuturICT proposal what motive us in being connected with this interesting, complex and ambitious initiative. For the conclusion I am expressing my full support and interest in the FuturICT and I believe that that our commitment would be best expressed through the project itself.

Sincerely,

Dalibor Baskovc
Paris, 2\textsuperscript{nd} of November, 2010

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Flagship FuturICT

As the European projects manager of Exalead France, I hereby confirm the strong interest of our company in the FuturICT flagship initiative and our commitment in active collaboration. Exalead will provide full support for the proposal preparation to make FuturICT flagship initiative successful.

Exalead is very active in European networks and have many cross-domain partnerships within FP ICT frameworks and French programs. Exalead quest is to provide our users and customers with lifelike experience through our IT solutions. We strongly believe that IT tools should consider the different aspects of the environment surrounding us and can no more be disconnected from the real life. The idea, carried by the initiative, of combining world social, economic, ... and environmental models to develop advanced tools for decision making fits perfectly our vision of the future IT challenges. Therefore, we are convinced that FuturICT initiative will be a prominent channel for making our lifelike experience strategy converging with the EU flagship initiative goals.

Thank you for your efforts in setting up this initiative and I hope to hear from you very soon.

Yours faithfully,

Amar-Djalil MEZAOUR, PhD
Project Manager
November 7, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my interest in and support for the FuturICT flagship project and its mission to understand and manage complex, global, socially interactive systems.

The growth in scale and interconnectedness of technological, social, and financial systems continues. Today in the New York Exchange alone almost 1.6 Billion shares, or nearly $46 Billion are typically traded in one day according to the NYSE group; an increase of almost 10-fold since the early 1990's. Information and communications technologies are creating unprecedented interconnectedness across the globe, presenting new challenges and opportunities.

FuturICT’s proposed platform has the potential to further our understanding of the dynamics of social, technological and financial systems. I look forward to following FuturICT’s progress and continuing to support their efforts.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Hamid Benbrahim
November 9, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

FQS Poland would like to express our support and interests in FuturICT project deliverables.

FQS Poland is an R&D center of Fujitsu Kyushu Systems Ltd. We provide business intelligence products and professional services supporting mainly pharmaceutical and financial institutions. Our interest is mainly data mining and data analysis technologies to process large volume of data and find hidden value in them.

Our expertise is anti-money laundering, fraud detection, and human relationships analysis and event prediction. These, in general, are tightly coupled with the area of interest of FuturICT project. We believe that social networks analysis might become important aspect of future detection of fraudulent transactions and suspicious people’s activities and the market will show a growing interest in this area.

Hence we are strongly interested in FuturICT research project output including our possible cooperation with project members.

Sincerely,

Jerzy Rudziński, PhD
President
FQS Poland Sp. z o.o.
SUBJECT: Letter of Support for FuturICT

To the Kind Attention of: Professor Dirk Helbing, ETH, Zurich, Switzerland

On behalf of the Hellenic Mobile Cluster (HMC), I would like to express my full support and interest in the FuturICT flagship initiative.

HMC is a non-profit organization comprised of high-tech companies whose business activities include, among others, the development of added value mobile applications, the provision of added value services for telecommunication providers, the provision of innovative communication, content, and application services, etc.

HMC counts more than 28 companies representing about 90% of the total turnover of the domestic market of the industry, provide jobs to more than 4,000 employees, among which 1,000 scientists of high academic education, with a total turnover of at least 400 million €, having a presence to more than 40 countries. Many of the company members are considered world leaders in the field with clientele that includes leading companies providing telecommunications services globally with presence in the London stock market (LSE / AIM) and NASDAQ, with a steady growth, achieving in some cases a doubling of turnover per year, with significant distinction at national and international level.

At the context of the FuturiCT project the industrial members of HMC are willing to participate through the FuturiCT flagship initiative and to facilitate academic, commercial research and development activities as well as expressing their willingness to participate in research projects related to R&D activities and interests of the members of our cluster which will be undertaken by the FuturiCT flagship project, amounting to 15.000.000 € throughout the duration of the programme.

Considering all of the above, I would be extremely interested in being an active participant and contributing to this significant initiative.

Sincerely,

Angelos Manglis
Facilitator of Hellenic Mobile Cluster
President & Managing Director
Atlantis Consulting SA
November 23, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing to express strong support from Hewlett-Packard Labs for the FuturICT FET flagship project, which is being coordinated by Professor Hebling of ETH-Zurich. We believe the proposal paints an exciting vision of the future, and outlines a compelling multi-disciplinary research agenda.

I am Director of the Information Analytics Lab at HP Labs. I see strong synergies between the objectives of this program and the research agenda of my lab, particularly in the area of real-time analytics at massive scale, and the application of these technologies to problems faced by industry, government, and society.

Through its Open Innovation program, HP Labs has a long history of collaboration with leading research institutions world-wide, and we will be very interested in exploring potential collaborations with the FuturICT project.

Sincerely,

Umeshwar Dayal
HP Fellow and Director
Information Analytics Lab
Hewlett-Packard Laboratories
To Whom It May Concern:

IBM Research would like to give our whole-hearted endorsement to the FuturICT FET flagship project, which is being coordinated by Professor Dirk Hebling of ETH Zurich, Switzerland. Indeed, we would be very interested in collaborating with the project.

I am the Director of IBM Research’s new Institute for Massive Data, Analytics and Modeling. Our Institute is partnering with academic researchers, businesses and governments globally to accelerate improvements in both the technology for massive scale analytics and in its application to scientific and business problems. IBM Research is well-known for its external collaborations on a global scale. The FutureICT project documents demonstrate the level of ambition and innovation we challenge our own researchers to strive for, and emphasize an interdisciplinary approach which we believe is essential for progress.

In conclusion, the research agenda of the proposed FuturICT flagship initiative is well aligned with IBM Research’s research interests. We are excited about the project, and would be most interested in collaborations as the project develops.

Sincerely yours,

Laura M. Haas
IBM Fellow
Director, Institute for Massive Data, Analytics and Modeling
IBM Research
José Luis Angoso
Director de Innovación y Calidad
Indra

Madrid, November 14th 2011

To FuturiCT Spain,

This is a letter of full support for the FuturiCT Flagship Initiative coming from INDRA, a global company, leader in solutions and services for the Transport and Traffic, Energy and Industry, Public Administration and Healthcare, Financial Services, Security and Defence, and Telecom and Media Sectors. INDRA operates in more than 110 countries and has more than 31,000 employees worldwide, focusing on developing innovative solutions that meet the needs of the most demanding clients. Indra ranks second in Europe by R&D spend, investing close to €500m during the last three years.

Innovation constitutes the cornerstone of Indra’s strategy. In fact, the company invests more than 7% of revenue in innovation per year (more than €500m in the last three years) and it has carried out 270 R&D&I projects.

The innovative spirit of the company is aligned with FuturiCT initiative. That is the reason why INDRA would be extremely interested in participating in such an interesting initiative.

Best regards,

José Luis Angoso
Director de Innovación y Calidad
Indra

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Torino  

c.a. Prof.ssa Anna Carbone

Subject: Expression of interest to participate in the EU “FuturICT” Project - FET Flagship Pilots call for proposals

IntesaSanpaolo Eurodesk S.p.r.l. (ISPE) is a private company established in Belgium, fully owned by Intesa Sanpaolo, the leading banking group in Italy.

ISPE is a special purpose vehicle with the mission of providing companies with a wide range of tailored services on the contents and the working of the EU Programmes and policies in the R&D field. Based in Brussels, with a liaison office in Milan, ISPE offers institutional consultancy in building contacts with EU Institutions, in structuring European partnerships and in monitoring business opportunities stemming from EU Programmes.

By working with ISPE, companies can also take advantage of the large range of banking and financial services offered by the Intesa Sanpaolo Group to support their R&D investments. Thanks to its close relationship with different Departments of Intesa Sanpaolo, ISPE can also take advantage of a huge banking expertise in understanding and analysing companies’ financing needs and in creating profitable financial solutions.

ISPE confirms its interest in the project FutureICT, which will be submitted under the next FET Flagship Pilots call for proposals.

Alessandra Perrazzelli  
Sole director IntesaSanpaolo Eurodesk Sp.r.l.

[Signature]
Dear Prof. Helbing

The Independent Power Transmission Operation of Greece is very pleased to affirm its strong support and interest to the FuturICT FET Flagship Project.

The Independent Power Transmission Operation (IPTO or ADMIE) was established in compliance with Law 4001/2011 and European Union Directive 2009/72/EC regarding the adoption of common rules in the organization of EU electricity markets. According to this Greek Law, ADMIE undertakes the role of Transmission System Operator for the Hellenic Electricity Transmission System and as such performs the duties of System operation, control, maintenance and development, so as to ensure Greece’s electricity supply in a safe, efficient and reliable manner.

FuturICT is of main strategic interest to IPTO’s core duties & responsibilities that include operation, control, maintenance and development of the Hellenic Electricity Transmission System. This System interfaces with Europe’s high voltage electricity transmission interconnectors, with the goal - through ENTSO-E (European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity that includes 41 TSOs from 34 countries) - to lead to a pan-European electricity market, a secure integration of renewable resources and a reliable future-oriented grid. The reorganization of the power transmission grids in Europe aiming at a more efficient liberalization of the European electricity market and an optimal grid structure includes the Greek electrical grid that plays a crucial role as a fundamental energy hub, Interconnecting Europe to Asia.

This is a project of utmost importance that will generate a vast amount of data exchange related to the controlling of energy generation, consumption and storage. Besides its technological dimensions (e.g. optimal network design), this also involves important economic, social and political dimensions (e.g. sustainable development, marketing, security, usability & user acceptance, participation strategy). We believe that all the dimensions of the aforementioned Energy Market transformation project are closely connected to the characteristic of a Planetary Nervous System, a core characteristic of the FuturICT project.

During the evolution of the FuturICT project, concerning the Living Earth Simulation and in order the future electricity market transformation to be implemented, there will be an urgent need for real-time data mining and processing, as well as building of specialized complex large scale simulation models, based on network constraints subject to market rules, which requires as input complex system theory elements, agent based modeling, risk and business modeling as applied in energy markets.
So the Global Participatory Platform of the FuturICT project will come along in the form of a multi-level information and control platform that informs the different stakeholders about the system's state and gives them user-specific controlling rights. In addition to the above, concepts for the pan-European electrical grid reorganization will provide an early application of the FuturICT project and a playing field for testing new concepts.

As the CEO of IPTO, I am convinced that the FuturICT project can contribute significantly to the improvement and enhancement of our operations, processes and procedures related to the management of the Greek electrical grid, which is a critical and essential infrastructure of our society and encapsulates all technological, economic, societal and environmental dimensions that prevail in the FuturICT project.

I intend to fully support our Company to FuturICT framework throughout the Flagship's lifetime, offering our technical and human potential, coordinated via our Strategic Planning Department, for mutual benefits. In this direction, we intend to offer all necessary support that includes training and technical services available at our premises and our network installations to FuturICT participants.

Kind regards

S. VASSOS
Chief Executive Officer
Re: FuturICT  
9th Oct. 2011

To whom it may concern,

As Director of the Irish Software Association, I wish to confirm our interest and strong support for the FuturICT proposal.

ISA is an industry association within the Irish Business and Employers’ Confederation (IBEC), the principal national umbrella organisation for businesses and employers in Ireland, and ICT Ireland, the representative group for Irish high-technology and knowledge-based industry. The ISA provides a powerful united voice for the software sector to enable companies to build their ability to scale, increase funding levels in the sector and push the sector’s requirements in the political sphere in a coherent and coordinated manner.

Building on our previous interactions with the FSIC in UCC and with JB McCarthy and recognising the opportunity that now exists for Ireland to participate in FuturICT, the ISA is delighted to support this initiative and will promote the participation of Irish companies in the project. FuturICT’s ambition of combining advances in computer science and related technologies with novel approaches to social sciences is very much in line with the existing interests and activities of the ISA, especially since the stated aim of FuturICT is to use these breakthroughs to solve important ‘real world’ issues.

ISA will promote the initiative across the members of ICT Ireland, members of the ISA, ISIN members (many of whom are small and medium-sized enterprises), as well as its extensive LinkedIn group.

In conclusion, the ISA reaffirms its support for this initiative, which will represent an important stepping stone to help indigenous and multinational software firms with a base in Ireland become more involved in EU research programs.

Sincerely,

Paul Sweetman,

Director

Irish Software Association.
Re: FuturICT

To whom it may concern,

As manager of the Irish Software Innovation Network, I wish to confirm our interest and strong support for the FuturICT proposal.

ISIN is open to all software companies with the intention to help them to bridge the gap that often exists between the business world and the academic world. Better alignment of the two parties will improve collaboration and knowledge transfer. ISIN helps to form clusters of academics, indigenous software companies and multi-national corporations to address particular problems posed by industry in a collaborative fashion. The goal of ISIN is to foster close linkages between industry and Third Level research, enable effective knowledge flows between all involved and stimulate collaborative, focused attention to common problems.

Building on our previous interactions with the FSIC in UCC and with JB McCarthy and recognising the opportunity that now exists for Ireland to participate in FuturICT, ISIN is delighted to support this initiative and will promote the participation of Irish companies in the project. FuturICT’s ambition of combining advances in computer science and related technologies with novel approaches to social sciences is very much in line with the existing interests and activities of ISIN, especially since the stated aim of FuturICT is to use these breakthroughs to solve important ‘real world’ issues.

ISIN will promote the initiative across the members of ICT Ireland, ISIN members (many of whom are small and medium-sized enterprises), as well as its 1,000 member LinkedIn group.

In conclusion, the ISIN reaffirms its support for this initiative, which will represent an important stepping stone to help SME’s become more involved in EU research programs.

Sincerely

Michael Martin,

Irish Software Innovation Network Manager
To whom it may concern

Letter of Support

This letter is to state that the general management of Lakeside Labs GmbH appreciates and is strongly interested in the FutureICT Flagship initiative. Our research organization can create add-on projects with funding to the FutureICT Flagship projects. We will support in all possible way, such as recruiting, scientific communication and politically.

With best regards,

Mag. Claudia Prüggler
Collaboration with FuturICT’s Innovation Accelerator

Dear Prof. Helbing,

I am writing on behalf of Mendeley to express our strong support for the FuturICT FET flagship project and our interest in collaborating with it, particularly in the focus area of the Innovation Accelerator.

I have founded Mendeley in 2008. Since then, it has become the world’s largest research collaboration platform with more than 1 million users, as well as the world’s largest research database with more than 110 million uploaded documents. Via its Open API, Mendeley has also developed into a platform for third-party developers who are now building research discovery, evaluation, visualization, and collaboration tools on top of Mendeley’s data.

Mendeley is very active in advancing the management of research documents and academic social networks that can help scientists and innovators organize their research workflow, collaborate with others online, and discover the latest findings. Mendeley is partnering with leading external research groups to address scientific, engineering and societal questions, which increasingly lie at the intersections of traditional disciplines.

Having read a number of the FuturICT project documents, I am impressed by the underlying concept and innovative approach of this project and its ambitious goals. I strongly believe that this cross-cutting, interdisciplinary concept will allow us to understand and manage our complex global systems more successfully by bringing together the fields of ICT, Complexity Science and Social Science. We consider this integrative approach as one of the main research trends in eScience and computational research, as well as in creating Web platforms to support innovation. This is precisely the kind of project we fully support and wish to contribute resources to in order to maximize its success.

In this connection, we are offering to provide Big Data from Mendeley for the development of FuturICT’s Innovation Accelerator (IA), in exchange for early access to the methods being developed by the IA. We have a strong interest in such an exchange of data and methods in order make quicker advances towards our common goals in the framework of a private-public partnership, which can create new services to the benefit of society. We are convinced that this collaboration can be a cornerstone in Europe’s strategy to become an Innovation Union, and that our innovative methods and tools have the potential to re-invent, if not revolutionize innovation.

Dr. Victor Henning
Co-Founder & CEO
Mendeley Ltd.
White Bear Yard
144a Clerkenwell Road
London EC1R 5DFc
United Kingdom
victor.henning@mendeley.com
http://www.mendeley.com
Tel.: +44 (0)207 713 8486

Prof. Dr. Dirk Helbing
ETH Zurich
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Chair of Sociology, in particular of Modeling and Simulation
Clausiusstrasse 50
8092 Zurich
Switzerland
In conclusion, the research agenda of the proposed FuturICT flagship initiative is well aligned with the strategic goals of Mendeley, and therefore we offer our strong support of this work. We are also extremely interested in actively collaborating with the research teams involved in FuturICT’s Innovation Accelerator.

Best wishes,

Dr. Victor Henning
September 26th, 2011

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of Microsoft Research to express our strong support for and interest in collaborating on the FuturICT FET flagship project, which is being coordinated by Professor Dirk Hebling of ETH Zurich, Switzerland.

My position in Microsoft Research (MSR) is Principal Architect and technical lead of MSR’s cloud research engagement initiative, in which we are partnering with academic research agencies around the world to accelerate scientific research for discovery via cloud computing. I previously led MSR’s External Research engineering group, where I collaborated closely with external academic groups on a variety of eScience projects. Microsoft Research is very active in advancing basic computing research and in partnering with leading external research groups to address scientific, engineering and societal questions which increasingly lie at the intersections of traditional disciplines. Having read a number of the FutureICT project documents, I am impressed by the underlying concept and innovative approach of this project, its ambitious goals, and believe this cross-cutting, interdisciplinary project holds the promise of allowing us to understand and manage our complex global social system by bringing together the fields of ICT, Complexity Science and Social Science. We consider this integrative approach is one of the main trends of research in eScience and computing research, and is precisely the kind of project we fully support and wish to contribute our resources to its success.

In conclusion, the research agenda of the proposed FuturICT flagship initiative is well aligned with the research pursuits of Microsoft Research, we offer our strong support of this work, and we would be extremely interested in active collaboration as the project develops.

Sincerely,

Roger S. Barga
Principal Architect
eXtreme Computing Group
Microsoft Research, Microsoft Corporation
To Steve Bishop

I would like to express our support for the FuturICT flagship initiative coordinated by yourself and I am excited by the possibilities that this project offers.

I am Creative Director of Motionbox a company specialising in creating moving image and creative 3D visualisations. We have recently become interested in the field of visualizing data in creative and innovative ways and with a keen interest in science, this project has caught our attention. I would be extremely interested in being an active participant of this exciting initiative.

Sincerely,

Mark Blackwood
Letter of support

To whom it may concern:

I fully support and very much recommend the PolonFT project outlined by Professor [Name], the leader of this team. The project, financed and conducted according to a research plan and approved by a grant from the National Science Centre of Poland, is of great importance for the development of research activities in the field of macroeconomics and economic policy. The project focuses on the analysis of economic and financial mechanisms in the context of the current economic situation and the impact of economic policies on the national and international economy.

The PolonFT project team includes a group of experienced and highly qualified researchers from the Faculty of Economics, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland. Their expertise and reputation are well recognized in the academic community.

The project aims to address theoretical and empirical challenges related to the dynamics of the Polish economy and its interactions with the global economy. The research will contribute to a better understanding of the economic mechanisms and policies that shape the Polish economy and its role in the international economy.

I believe that the PolonFT project will be a significant contribution to the field of economic research and will provide valuable insights into the economic situation in Poland and the European Union.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Title and Affiliation]
Re: FET Flagship Proposal "FuturICT"

To whom it may concern

Mister Javier A. García Sedano, General Manager of OPTIMITIVE, is pleased to confirm the interest and full support of this company for the FET Flagship proposal "FuturICT".

OPTIMITIVE (www.optimitive.com) is a Spanish company that offers advanced IT systems for on-line improvement of industrial processes. We develop proprietary technology and products, based on the understanding of concerns of manufacturing companies. These products focus on helping companies to manufacture with the most energy efficiency and environmental awareness that their facilities permit, allowing the highest return on their investment. By these means, they become more competitive and at the same time we help them to comply with environmental regulations.

We collaborate with the private sector, with Research Centers (e.g. Tecnalia) and with Spanish Universities (e.g. Universidad del País Vasco) as well.

OPTIMITIVE is looking forward to working together with the consortium on the final definition of the FuturICT project during the Coordination Action (Pilot phase).

Javier A. García Sedano

[Signature]

OPTIMITIVE
CIF B 01439645
Parque Tec. de Álava • Albert Einstein, 15
Edificio CEIA • 01510 Miñano (Álava) • Spain
To FuturICT Spain,

This is a letter of full support for the FuturICT Flagship Initiative coming from Puntech Mobility Solutions.

We are a small, 3 years old company which is devoted to mobility, analysis based, solutions. In this sense, we offer products which range from detailed fleet monitoring, best driving practices teaching or even tailor-made insurance policies. At this moment, we are developing an Artificial Intelligence software solution which allows both tracking and analyzing huge sets of drivers. This data will be used to predict their risk when driving, making specific insurance tariff policies available to them, such as Pay As You Drive (PAYD) or User Based Insurance (UBI) products. This tool is being developed thanks to a NeoTech grant from the Spanish government, in collaboration with the Universitat Ramon Llull university.

As a small, technological enterprise, we are currently focused on collecting mobility related data which results from insurance companies that we can use to model and predict driver behavior. However, we can offer ourselves as a partner that carries out mobility analysis, pursuing ecological driving or smart traffic management for large cities.

Enric Farguell Matesanz, PhD

CTO – Puntech Mobility Solutions
LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE FET FLAGSHIP PROPOSAL “FUTURICT”

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to express the explicit interest of Salzburg Research Forschungsgesellschaft mbH in the FuturiICT Flagship Initiative.

Salzburg Research is a non-profit research technology organization specialized in applied research and development in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT) and New Media.

Our institution, owned by the federal state of Salzburg, envisions to engage in the visions sketched out in FuturiICT and will involve several of our key scientists. Should FuturiICT materialize it is strongly intended to support it institutionally in all possible ways, especially in terms of research infrastructure and matching grants.

With four fields of research, two competence centers, and one competence focus, Salzburg Research covers a vast area of scientific expertise. Our strength lies in a successful interdisciplinary combination of different fields ranging from technological research and development to socio-economic strategy and market research and target-group specific coaching and communication measures.

FuturiICT especially will be supported with the scientific expertise in two of our departments:

The “Advanced Networking Center” has its focus on planning, development and supervision of reliable networks, particularly stable Internet protocol networks, while the “Knowledge and Media Technologies” group addresses the latest developments arising from the interplay of social media, content management and semantic technologies.

Yours sincerely,

Univ.-Doz. Dr. Siegfried Reich
Managing Director
Salzburg Research Forschungsgesellschaft mbH
September 26, 2011

To whom it may concern:

SAP is excited about the possibility to support the FuturiICT research project. FuturiICT addresses grand challenge questions in both Information Technology and for Society. Furthermore, it is carried out by internationally top scientists in these areas. SAP is looking forward to possibly collaborate with academia and other industrial and institutional partners in this project.

SAP is the world-wide leader for business software. In particular, SAP develops standard software for many verticals, including all industries, education, and government. SAP follows a data-centric approach to support organizations: SAP software supports the processes that generate data and provides the tools to analyze and visualize data in order to help policy makers understand the current status, make predications, and carry out what-if analyses, to name just a few examples. For this reason, SAP is excited about FuturiICT’s approach of a new data-driven science.

The FuturiICT project will help SAP in several different ways. First, of course, SAP is interested in many of the scientific results; e.g., in the areas of financial markets, health care, and social behavior. These results are directly relevant for many SAP customers. Second, SAP is highly interested in technological advances explored in the FuturiICT project. FuturiICT addresses several grand challenge problems of Computer Science and the results are directly applicable to SAP products. Third, FuturiICT will help educate a new generation of data scientists; i.e., open-minded and interdisciplinary students who explore and experiment with data in new and creative ways.

SAP has ongoing and long-term collaborations with several universities that are involved in FuturiICT; in particular, with ETH Zurich. FuturiICT is a great opportunity to deepen and broaden these collaborations and apply the developed techniques for a broader scientific community.

I look forward to discussing FuturiICT in more detail and learning more about partnership opportunities.

Sincerely,

Paul Hofmann, Ph.D.
VP Research
SAP Research Center Palo Alto
SAP Labs, LLC
3410 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304
Phone: +1 650 849 4200

www.sap.com
Juan Luis Sampedro  
CEO  
Skybus

To FuturiICT Spain,

This letter is to express Skybus's full support to the FuturiICT Flagship Initiative.

Skybus is a company that offers a pioneering on-demand urban transport.

Founded in 2008, the company's R&D has been backed financially by CDTI (Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation), by Madrid's Regional Government (Comunidad de Madrid), by European Commission's Eurostars (Eureka) Program and by Spanish Ministry of Industry. In addition, Skybus has been selected as finalist in IBM'S Smartcamp 2011, IBM's global competition for start-ups with technologies aiming at building a smarter planet, has become one of the "2011 BullyAward" finalist and has been selected as 2011 Madrid's Start-up of the Year by Madrid Emprende (Madrid City Hall).

Skybus offers a SaaS service that acts as a brokerage platform between supply and demand of transport. The system monitors fleets of vehicles while it registers the requests of travelers. With this information it calculates the routes and makes the mapping between requests and vehicles, to take every passenger directly from origin to destination without transfers, within a minimum time, and at very low costs.

Skybus offers significant socio-economic benefits thanks to its technological innovation:
- Improves the quality of life of travelers and citizens in general
- Improves the urban environment reducing traffic, emissions, pollution and noise
- Allows a more efficient use of energy, material and human resources and requires no investment in infrastructures

Since the company was set up, it has been focused on innovation as one of the main stays for its development. That means Skybus is aligned with the innovative spirit of FuturiICT and for this reason Skybus is willing to participate in such an interesting initiative.

Best regards,

Juan Luis Sampedro  
CEO  
Skybus
Software Technology and Applications Competence Center
Akadeemia tee 15a, Tallinn
Estonia

09.02.2012

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of STACC (Software Technology and Applications Competence Center) based in Tallinn, Estonia, I am writing to express support for the FET Flagship project “FuturICT”.

STACC is a research and development organization established in 2009 to conduct high-priority applied research in the field of data mining and software design. STACC is a joint initiative between the Estonian leading universities and IT companies. Our aim is to conduct applied research in software technology by working with suppliers and users of technology. The mission of STACC is to enhance the skills and competitiveness of organizations that are closely involved in software technology.

STACC has worked with industry partners over the past years in the areas of social network data mining and building secure multi-party computation platforms. In addition we have been involved with several software productivity and service network management framework developments. Our research and development work with the industry has demonstrated the need for software research to improve software solutions built for the years to come.

FuturICT is aimed for providing solutions to some of the most critical issues facing humanity in the 21st century. The proposed project for exploring societal, economical and environmental issues through technology serves a noble goal of understanding how to better cope with increasing change and uncertainty. For these causes STACC expresses support for the FuturICT project.

Regards,

[Signature]

Indrek Vainu
CEO
Torino, 30 November, 2010

Gent.ma
Prof.ssa Carbone Anna
Physics Department
Politecnico di Torino
Corso Duca degli Abruzzi, 24
10129 Torino, Italy

As the Director of Research & Trends, Strategia ed Innovazione, Telecom Italia Group, I hereby confirm the strong interest of our company in the FuturiICT flagship initiative and our commitment in active collaboration.

The Telecom Italia labs (previously CSELT, founded in 1964 in Torino) have more than 40 years of activity as the Telecommunications Research Centre and Laboratories of Telecom Italia.

Most of the R&D activities of the Group are performed inside the Innovation and R&D Departments of Telecom Italia and involve around 4500 researchers and technicians with an average investment of 650 Meuro per year.

Strategy & Innovation is the department whose remit is triggering the develop of new services and products taking advantage of technological innovation coming both from the internal Research and from external technological evolution; to do this it also operates following an Over The Top approach in agreement with major player of the CE world.

TiLab is the department whose remit is the supervision of all technological innovation for the infrastructure, scouting for new technologies and engineering operations for services and network platforms.

A relevant part of the ICT technologies planned to be developed by the FuturiICT project are of great interest for Telecom Italia. I will mention only a few representative examples.

Telecom Italia, in conjunction with other major players such as Alcatel-Lucent, DoCoMo, France Telecom, Motorola, Nokia, NSN, STM, Telefonica and Vodafone, is indeed one of the consortium’s main partners and performs intensive research activities in the areas indicated by the European Union’s ICT Program.

Recently Telecom Italia has widened its know-how, shared its strategic visions and confirmed its competence by presenting the document (White Paper) on eMobility to EWG-5’s group of experts focused on "Context Provisioning and User Profiling for User-Centric Services", where the context, the model and the context-aware service architecture are ensured by Telecom Italia’s “Context Awareness” research project. This document is also an explicit acknowledgement, by all of the partners involved, of Telecom Italia’s experience in context-awareness research and of an undeniable commitment to this sector on an EU level in the upcoming years.

Finally, Telecom Italia has been invited to conduct activities related to Context Awareness with eMobility, to contribute to the preparation of Public-Private Partnership “When smart technologies connect people” initiatives, with the startup meeting to take place at Acropolis (Nice). Moreover, Telecom Italia is also part of the steering board of the PPP initiative, along with 15 other leading TLC companies, for appropriately managing the EU budget dedicated to research and industrial innovation, set at €300 million for 2011-2013.
Telecom Italia ventures to define "intelligent city" models by developing groundbreaking digital services that enhance key municipality-level issues including energy efficiency, environmental monitoring, communication with citizens and the promotion of tourism. The "Smart Cities Laboratory" will make it possible to evaluate the on-the-ground application of planned solutions, and to establish guidelines for evolving urban areas towards an "intelligent city" model, supporting municipalities as they implement these solutions in their local areas. Starting with the public lighting network – once it has been equipped with sensors linked to the telecommunications network – the Laboratory will help to identify ways in which public service network infrastructures can help municipalities become more efficient in the provision of traditional services, achieve significant savings, and provide innovative services to the general public.

The ECONET (low Energy CONsumption NETworks) research project, financed by the EU, is intended to contribute to the global challenge for energy savings, concentrating its attention on consumption by the systems which make up the fixed communications network, whether looking at it from the consumer or the operator's side. To this end, the main challenge consists in designing, developing and testing new technologies and the criteria and mechanisms of integrated controls to enable effective power savings in the equipment through the dynamic adaptation of the network capacity and resources to the actual traffic loads and user demands, while warranting Service Quality.

The EU-funded EARTH (Energy Aware Radio and NeTwork Technologies) research project has the ambitious goal of taking part in the international challenge of energy savings, with a special focus on mobile communications systems. The project, grouping a consortium of 15 members, including six industrial partners such as (in addition to Telecom Italia) Alcatel-Lucent, Ericsson, DOCOMO, NXP, TTI Norte and IMEC, deals with a wide range of issues, from the development of a new generation of equipment and components, to the adoption of new deployment strategies and network management systems, to the use of innovative algorithms for making efficient use of radio resources. The common goal is to specifically cut the systems' power consumption by more than 50%, with the resulting benefits in terms of savings and decreased polluting emissions.

A further example is our project, "Future of Learning", which tries to understand both how learning may be transformed (to become continuing learning) and how business could be transformed when the new learning systems are available, for the sales personnel, for example, as well as for our clients. Doesn't the design of products and services require the inclusion of learning systems enabling those who use them to exploit them in the best way, and to become part of the project? We are getting used to the transition from being pure users to producers of contents.

Therefore, we are convinced that FuturICT initiative will be our preferred interlocutor for creating so far unexplored links, bringing to new developments and synergistic strategies converging with the goals of the EU agenda for 2020.

Thank you for your efforts in setting up this initiative and I hope to hear from you very soon about the FuturICT development.

Ing. Felice Fulvio Faraci,
Head of Research & Trends, Strategy & Innovation of the Telecom Italia Group
Via G. Reiss Romoli, 274 - 10148 TORINO

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my full support and interest in the FuturICT flagship initiative, which is coordinated by Professor Dirk Hebling of ETH Zurich, Switzerland.

I am Scientific Director at Telefonica R&D (Barcelona) where I am responsible for the user modeling (including recommender systems, social network analysis and urban computing), human-computer interaction (including mobile) and multimedia analysis research areas. The research branch at Telefonica R&D was created in 2006 and focuses on mid to long-term research projects related to several technological areas of interest to the Telefonica Group. We follow an open research model in collaboration with universities and other research institutions and favor the dissemination of our work both through top-tier peer-reviewed scientific publications and technology transfer.

We are actively carrying out very relevant research in the context of the FuturICT proposal, including projects to: (1) better understand social and communication networks (community identification, churn prediction, discovery and characterization of rhythms of communication, information propagation); (2) characterize human behavior at the individual and aggregated levels; (3) understand the information needs of mobile users; (4) develop novel context-aware systems; and (5) create holistic user models that enable precise recommendations and personalization.

The research agenda of the FuturICT flagship proposal is therefore well aligned with our research activity. For this reason, I would be extremely interested in being an active participant of this exciting initiative.

Sincerely,

Nuria Oliver, PhD
To FuturICT Spain,

On the behalf of Telenium, I assume a full endorsement of the FuturICT Flagship Initiative, as it has been presented to me by the members of its Spanish Node.

Telenium is a medium-size ICT consulting company founded in 1998, owned and managed by professionals, and specialized in providing high-value solutions to first-tier multinationals. While it has been especially active in the sectors of telecommunications and media companies, Telenium is diversifying its operational base, and is now providing solutions for advanced HR and talent-oriented management for a broader base of clients. Our company has today 180 employees and is active in the Spanish market.

Since 2007, we have been developing a number of internal R&D projects in the fields of collaborative platforms and cognitive technologies, using among other tools the paradigms of intelligent agents, for instance for designing breakthrough solutions to the management of telecommunications networks (including self-diagnosis and self-healing functionalities).

Moreover, the paradigms related to Complexity Science make also sense to us in the direction of developing a new generation of tools to enhance human cognitive and learning capacities, in the context of an internal innovation program we call Learningtivity.

This is why we consider there are a number of areas of common interest between our R&D agenda and the FuturICT research programme. We are supportive of this interesting initiative and would definitely like to participate in its further developments.

Sincerely yours,

David Vicente
Business Development Director
Telenium

TELENIUM Tecnología y Servicios S.L. - CIF: B-81941684
Ortega y Gasset 20 – 28006 Madrid – ESPAÑA
Tel (34) 91 315 85 62 Fax (34) 91 315 63 37
www.telenium.es
Ref: TRT-Fr/DC&BD,IP,C/op,12.032 Palaiseau, March 6th, 2012

To whom it may concern:

As we understand, the ultimate goal of the FuturICT project, which is a candidate for funding under the European Commission FET Flagship programme, is to understand and manage complex, global, socially interactive systems, with a focus on sustainability and resilience.

As a world leader in designing and building mission-critical information systems for the defence & security and the aerospace & transportation markets, Thales believes that the FuturICT project has the potential to develop a broad range of technologies relevant to its businesses. We see strong synergies between the objectives of the FuturICT project and ones of Thales Research labs, in particular in the area of self organizing wide scale architectures, their supporting engineering environments and in the domain of computable social sciences (social sensing, social thinking, social adaptiveness, social self-organisation).

Thales has a long and extensive experience in collaborative European research projects, being one of the top contributors of the European Commission Framework Programmes, especially in the ICT domain.

As a conclusion, we look forward to learn more about the FuturICT project and to discuss partnership opportunities.

Sincerely yours,

Erick Lansard
VP
Executive Director of Thales Research & Technology - France
To FuturiCT Spain,

This is a letter of full support for the FuturiCT Flagship Initiative coming from ubiququa Research and Innovation.

ubiququa is an SME founded in June 2011 that provides decision support tools and consulting services for the design, optimisation and management of socio-technical systems. Our solutions are based on analytical and simulation predictive models. We offer virtual laboratories to assess the impact of a set of potential strategies under different scenarios, the end goal being to find the cause-effect relationships between control variables and performance indicators, the trade-offs therein, and the potentially contradictory short and long-term effects of a specific strategy.

ubiququa develops an intensive research activity focused on the transfer and adaptation of the state of the art in complex system science to the modelling of socio-technical systems, striving to improve the way they are designed and controlled. We aim at identifying emergent phenomena and explaining the relations between the microscopic dynamics and the macroscopic regimes of operation. We make particular emphasis on including autonomous, decentralized actors’ decisions, the role of uncertainty, and the relevance of various spatio-temporal scales to understand collective phenomena. We develop our research activities by working in open partnership with universities, research centers, SMEs, industry, public bodies, or NGOs, mainly through international, collaborative R&D projects.

Our research interests are fully aligned with the objectives pursued by FuturiCT. We are particularly interested in the areas of Smart Cities, Transport and Energy, where we are firmly convinced that an initiative like FuturiCT can make substantial contributions to face the challenges faced by our society in the 21st century. Therefore, we hereby reaffirm our support to the FuturiCT project, as well as our interest and willingness to collaborate with the current Coordination Action and the subsequent stages.

Yours faithfully,

Ricardo Herranz
Researcher and Managing Partner

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c/ Cañas, 8. 28043 Madrid
Tel +34 911882116
network@ubiququa.com  www.ubiququa.com
Subject: Letter in support of FuturlICT flagship project

Dear Mr McCarthy,

Xerox has been the leader in document technology and services for over 50 years. With the acquisition of Affiliated Computer Services (ACS) in 2010, Xerox became the world’s leading enterprise for business process and document management, offering services from healthcare and automated toll transactions to customer care centers, outsourced IT infrastructures and HR benefits management. Services now represent half of Xerox’s $22.5 billion dollar revenue. Prior to becoming part of Xerox, the majority of ACS business was conducted in North America. The focus is now to aggressively grow the services business in Europe.

Some of the challenges our different lines of business need to manage, overlap with several of those being addressed by FuturlICT. Dealing with big data goes across several business sectors as does the difficulty of accessing and exchanging information and data across heterogeneous systems. For example in healthcare, despite progress being made towards fully electronic medical records, the patient information spans across General Practitioners, hospitals, clinics and health insurer systems. In transportation, Xerox integrates information and payment systems across multimodal systems within cities and regions and needs to integrate this with urban planning policies to optimize infrastructures for citizens. In Finance and Human Resource services, Xerox mines data and builds models to estimate financial risk or economic factors that will affect retirement and pension schemes.

Whilst the new Xerox is different, we remain as committed as ever to R&D recognizing that innovation keeps us in the forefront of our industry. Xerox has five research centres in the U.S., Canada and Europe and Asia and invests approximately 4% of revenue in R&D. Of that percentage, investment in services related research has been steadily growing over the years. Such research has been the focus of European research since the Xerox Research Centre Europe (XRCE) was created in the early 90’s and whose mission is to support the growth of the services business by creating valuable innovative offerings. Over the last two decades XRCE has collaborated with many academic and industrial institutions and has been a partner in dozens of European projects.
XRCE's core scientific expertise is in image, text and data analytics (data/information), process modeling and simulation (models) and ethnography (people) all of which are relevant to the themes in FuturiCT.

We are therefore fully supportive of the FuturiCT project’s goals and objectives as we understand and appreciate their relevance from a research and service industry perspective. The development of a comprehensive services framework is critical to the growth of the European services economy and one which we would like to be involved in as both a partner and customer.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Monica Beltrametti
Xerox Chief Services Research Officer
Director, Xerox Research Centre Europe
To whom it may concern:

I would like to express my full support and interest in collaboration in the FuturICT flagship initiative, which is coordinated by Professor Dirk Hebling of ETH Zurich, Switzerland.

My position in the Yahoo! Research is senior research scientist and I am coordinating a group in social mining in the Barcelona lab. Yahoo! Research promotes technology generation and development; research and creativity; transfer of research results to industry; promotion of the research results to society at large; training in all areas of communication; and social awareness of the communication industry in a culture of innovation. The activities of the social mining group in Barcelona include social aspects of computing, understanding how information propagates in social networks, discovering communities, forming teams to cooperate and accomplish a number of tasks, and understanding how users behave via analysis of huge amounts of log data.

Hence, I find that the research agenda of the proposed FuturICT flagship initiative meets the research pursuits of our group and I would be extremely interested in participating in such an interesting project.

Aristides Gionis, PhD
Senior Research Scientist
November 25, 2010
Countries
Mr. Steven Bishop  
Coordinator  
FuturlICT Initiative

Office of the Vice-Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Flemish Minister for Innovation, Public Investment, Media and Poverty Reduction  
Martelaarsplein 7, 1000 Brussel  
Tel. 02 552 70 00 - Fax 02 552 70 01  
kabinet.lieten@vlaanderen.be

your correspondence dated  
your reference  
our reference  
attach.  
ask for  
telephone  
date  
JA/067/05801  
+32 2 552 70 33  
30 APR. 2012  
Jan Adriaenssens  
ian.adriaenssens@vlaanderen.be

subject: Letter of Intent: FuturlICT FET Flagship Initiative

Dear Sir,

Being Minister responsible for innovation in the Flemish Region (Belgium) I was informed about the FET Flagship initiatives.

In particular the FuturlICT initiative that you are proposing for the FET-Flagship programme has drawn my full attention. Indeed, the FuturlICT project seems to be a very challenging initiative requiring cooperation at the European level. I’m convinced that the universities and research institutes of Flanders are able to contribute to the major objectives of FuturlICT.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to inform you that I am willing to look favourably on supporting our participation in FuturlICT should the initiative be selected by the European Commission. This support would then be provided according to standard procedures implemented by the Flemish funding agencies.

For your information in annex, a short overview of the Flemish instruments, major funding agencies and research efforts related to the research domains of FuturlICT.

http://www.vlaanderen.be/regering

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I am confident that our researchers' participation in an ambitious initiative such as FuturICT would be of mutual interest.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Ingrid Lieten
Annex

FuturICT FET Flagship Initiative

This one page document gives a short overview of Flanders’ research activities and interest in the FuturICT FET Flagship initiative.

1. Instruments

The Flemish research institutes acquire most of their public funding through open competition via bottom-up research project calls. Participation in European projects such as ERANET+ is subject to approval by the Flemish Government. The implementation is handled by the funding agencies such as: Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), Hercules research infrastructure fund, and the Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology (IWT). The level of funding is in general proportional to the Flemish contribution to the initiative.

2. Actual research activities in the domain

At present, the total public funding contribution to FuturICT-related research projects in the Flemish research institutions is about 115.3 million euro (on-going projects March 2012), of which 50.2 million euro is provided by the regional funding agencies FWO (frontier research), IWT (applied research and innovation activities), and Hercules (research infrastructures). In addition, the IWT invested 15.9 million euro in ICT research in the private sector (2010 figures). Next to these public investments, the Flemish private ICT sector invested up to 772 million euro in intramural R&D in 2009, which amounts to 29% of the total private sector R&D investments in Flanders (Source: AGORIA, Union of Technology Industries).

3. Current interest

The Flemish research institutes that already expressed their interest in FuturICT are 4 universities (KU Leuven, UGent, UAntwerp, VUB) and the strategic research centre Interdisciplinary Institute for Broadband Technology (iBBT). They have currently invested 33.8 million euro in the research domains of FuturICT. At present, these organisations employ 781 researchers in the specific domains, including 147 senior researchers. Moreover, Flemish researchers at these institutes collaborate in European projects (especially FP7) in FuturICT relevant domains for an estimated total budget return of 31.2 million euro. This includes also 4 grants of the European Research Council (Philip Lemey, Jan Ramon, Tinne Tuytelaars and Luc Van Gool).

4. Strong participation of Flanders in the FP7 ICT theme

In general Flanders research organizations are participating very well in the FP7 ICT theme. Indeed, the Flemish budget return for ICT research in FP7 amounts in total to 121 million euro up to 2010, which is 50% more than what would have been expected based on Flanders’ GDP (source: EWI, Department of Economy, Science and Innovation of the Flemish Government).
To: Mr. Wolfgang Boch  
Head of Unit  
European Commission  
DG INFSO – F1 (BU25-05/24)  
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium 

Subject: Letter of support for FuturICT

Dear Mr. Boch,

By this letter I would like to express the institutional support of the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications who responsible for pursuing the state policy electronic communications and Information Society and supports the Bulgarian participation in the ICT theme of the Seventh Framework Programme to the FuturICT flagship pilot.

We agree that integrating ICT, Complexity Science and the Social Sciences will create a paradigm shift, facilitating a symbiotic co-evolution of ICT and society and appreciate the efforts to foster scientific cooperation between the EU member states, which we consider very useful for the Bulgarian research community and the EU as a whole.

We are aware that there is Bulgarian participation in the planned FuturICT pilot, namely the Institute of Mechanics at the Bulgarian Academy of Science (BAS). Overall, the Institute has participated in 13 scientific projects within the framework of the 4, 5, 6 and 7 FP of the EU and in 11 NATO projects. Two of them are international scientific networks of excellence of the European Commission with over 70 other scientific organizations as network partners. The area of activity of one large and integrated project is that of high technologies, another one deals with genomics and the last one covers education in the MEMC area in compliance with the Marie Curie program of the European Network. The Institute also operates 19 projects according to contracts for scientific exchange between BAS and academic institutions from England, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Czech Republic, Hungary, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Israel, etc.

Finally, we believe that the FuturICT pilot is one of the most important initiatives that could underpin the research agenda at a national and European level.

Sincerely yours,

Valery Borissov

Deputy-Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications
Dear Professor Dirk Helbing

On behalf of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, I would like to confirm that France will strongly support the new instrument launched by European Commission referred as « Flagship Initiative ». The ICT department of Ministry of Higher Education and Research is actively working on defining the most efficient rules implementing this instrument.

Among the different Flagship that have been selected as prefiguration projects, the initiative you are coordinating entitled Futur ICT that will explore and manage our future, based on a fundamental understanding of the institutional and interaction-based principles that make connected systems work well.

The French strategic agenda has put ICT as a top priority together with Social Sciences and the convergence between ICT and Social Sciences will allow to address new scientific and societal challenges linked to complexity of the future systems. In order to coordinate our efforts, we have created two alliances on digital Sciences named ALLISTENE and on Social Sciences named ATHENA and it has been asked to the main actors represented by CNRS, INRIA, and Universities to get involved in this initiative and consequently, these organisms committed to engage significant human resources in the project building. We have furthermore asked national research agency to be prepared to launch a specific call for project aligned with the topics of the flagship in order to leverage the scientific activity and to get Europe at the top level of the worldwide competition.

Monsieur le Professeur Dirk Helbing
Chair of Sociology, in particular of Modeling and Simulation
ETH Zurich
Clausiusstraße 50
CH-8092 Zurich
I would like to express by this letter the strong support of French ministry of Higher Education and Research and we hope that the efforts we commit in a very rough economical situation will serve the project to be selected. However, we expect that our research community will have an appropriate position in the consortium in line with its excellence and critical size.

Dear professor, on behalf of the ministry of Higher Education and Research, I wish a great success in this new adventure.

Sincerely Yours.

Roger GENET
Prof László Dux
Deputy State Secretary for
Higher Education and Science Policy
Ministry of National Resources

30 September 2011

Wolfgang Boch
Head of Unit

European Commission
DG INFSO - F1 (BU25 - 05/24)
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Subject: Letter of support for FuturICT

Dear Dr. Boch,

Hungary very much appreciates the efforts of the planned FuturICT flagship project to foster scientific cooperation between the countries of the European Union, which are not only useful for Hungarian researchers, but also for the scientific communities of the region.

The Ministry of National Resources, responsible for science policy in Hungary, sees the FuturICT project as one of the most important initiatives that could underpin the research agenda on the national strategic level. The perspective of this project in Hungary is to facilitate 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

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ICT experts to mathematicians and social science engineers.

Support for and willingness to participate in the project has been already expressed in Hungary by leading research and higher educational and academic organisations, among them the Hungarian Academy of Science, the Technical University of Budapest, Lorand Eötvös University, or Szeged University. Considerable interest in the project has also been shown by leading companies in the field of distributed and high performance computing, who expect the project to open new business opportunities for the future. Based on these involvements, Hungary is prepared to make a significant contribution to the planned FuturiICT project and to European excellence in science on a global scale.

The Hungarian government is already intensively supporting RTD activities, which are in line with the research objectives of FuturiICT. In addition, we intend to support FuturiICT related activities through the introduction of various new national RTD initiatives, where we plan to provide this support through various instruments. The current plan is for the government to provide around EUR 24 Million of grants for RTD activities in this area in the upcoming three years; around EUR 3.7 Million alone for a higher education and research FuturiICT centre. The support for the program will executed through targeted research projects based on the European Social Funds. 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.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Dr László Dux

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e-mail: laszlo.dux@reftmi.gov.hu
MINISTER
NAUKI I SZKOLNICTWA WYŻSZEGO
prof. Barbara Kudrycka

Warszawa, 2 listopada 2011 r.

Dr. Wolfgang Boch
Head of Unit FET-Proactive

European Commission
DG INFSO - F1 (BU25 - 05/24)
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Dear Dr. Boch,

Poland strongly supports scientific goals of the planned FuturICT FET Flagship Project as an cutting-edge international multidisciplinary scientific initiative focused on symbiotic co-evolution of ICT systems and society. We are convinced that the project will unleash the collective expertise of participating scientists from ICT, social science and complex systems research domains and its results will give a background for a new generation of globe-spanning socially intelligent ICT solutions.

Our country possesses a long tradition and a substantial potential in interdisciplinary studies related to FuturICT research targets. The project has already evoked a large interest among many Polish research groups working on interdisciplinary applications of complex systems theory and in data-driven modeling of techno-socio-economic structures. A cluster of research groups from several Polish Universities, including Warsaw University of Technology, University of Warsaw and Jagiellonian University as well as Institutes of Polish Academy of Sciences, and private companies has declared its willingness in the project participation and it will be jointly involved in the Flagship.

FuturICT project is well fitting to several Polish national priorities and the Polish government has already been supported the research that is in-line with FuturICT aims by providing funds for a number of RTD projects that running in Poland as a part of the 7th EU Framework Programme or that are carried out in the frame of local initiatives developed by Polish researchers. We guarantee financial support available for Polish teams involved in FuturICT Projects to cover the expected costs from the Polish side.

I wish that the FuturICT Project will be set in motion and that it meets its visionary research targets.

Sincerely yours

[Signature]

ul. Wspólna 1/3, 00-529 Warszawa
tel. (22) 628 19 44, faks: (22) 529 26 21, e-mail: sekretariat.minister@nauka.gov.pl, www.nauka.gov.pl
Subject: Letter of support to FuturiICT flagship project.

Dear Mr. Helbing,

The Portuguese Ministry of Education and Science finds in the planned FuturiICT flagship project a remarkable case of scientific excellence allied to an ambitious interdisciplinary initiative with high potential for our societies. The project involves the best European research community in the area of complex systems and makes use of grand ICT resources for exploring the symbiotic co-evolution of technology with society, with impacts on the environment and health.

We are certain of its paramount importance not only for the societal challenges ahead of us, but also for the shift Europe needs in terms of collaborative work among different fields of science, such as those involved in this initiative. Only through that approach can Europe increase its readiness for the threats of our times, such as financial alarms, epidemiologic cases and others reflected by the FuturiICT project.

For Portugal, this has been an important field of research in the past few years. National activities have been financed in large-scale social modeling, with great success, including epidemiology and societal simulation with high-performing computing. Nonetheless, an initiative like FuturiICT can only be undertaken in a collaborative way, taking advantage of the best added-value offered by the European Commission opportunities. The Portuguese expertise involved is an assurance of excellence.

FuturiICT project is thus in line with Portugal’s perspectives, with several benefits both for underpinning the research agenda nationally and cross-borders and for multiplying impacts in a number of critical societal areas. In this view, it is my pleasure to assure you of Portugal’s support to this project as one of the six Future and Emerging Technology flagship initiatives to be further developed in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Nuno Crato

Minister of Education and Science
To whom it may concern

To the knowledge of H.E. Mr. Ambassador Liviu BOTA – Honorary President
Mr. Sever AVRAM – Executive President
EUROLINK-House of Europe Foundation in Bucharest, Romania

We would like to express the interest of the National Authority for Scientific Research to welcome any initiative meant to stimulate research and innovation in the socio-economic field of activities. The recent Launching event of the FutureICT Regional Center of Excellence Bucharest – Romania, where the Capital of Romania proposed its own portfolio of experience in order to become a Socio-Economic Innovation Hub for complex IC&T projects is a such initiative.

Aware of the opportunities opened by the participation to the FutureICT innovative programme, we are ready to support the FutureICT Flagship initiative, involving its representation within the academic innovation community from Romania, with the aim to build valid partnerships in the Central and South-Eastern European region, in order to implement projects under FutureICT framework and hope to serve as a well-functioning forum for the exchange of ideas, skills, and relevant information.

We expect that the FutureICT innovative programme will:
- encourage comparative studies
- disseminate the information about “best practices” and most typical failures
- facilitate the application of innovative ideas concerning administrative behaviour, specific technologies and regionally generated knowledge.

In this respect, we already appreciate the strong commitment of the Romanian representatives of FutureICT – Prof. Dr. Carmen COSTEA, as Honorary President of the Alternative Sciences Association, and of the Coordinator of the Regional Center of Excellence in Bucharest, Executive President Sever AVRAM.

We believe that our future cooperation will provide additional support to projects and events which the National Authority for Scientific Research is planning to develop.

Sincerely yours,

President,
Dragoș Mihailescu CIUPARU

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JB McCarthy
Development Director
Financial Services Innovation Centre,
O’Rahilly Building,
University College Cork,
Cork

13 October 2011

Dear JB,

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 portfolio of research investments is excellent.

I wish FuturICT every success in its pilot phase.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Prof Fionn Murtagh, Director
Information, Communications and Emergent Technologies,
Science Foundation Ireland
Wilton Park House, Wilton Place, Dublin 2, Ireland
Tel +353 1 607-3056, Email fionn.murtagh@sfi.ie
Subject: Letter of support to FuturlICT

The Ministry of higher education, science and technology as the leading government entity sees the FuturlICT 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 FuturlICT. In addition we intend to support the FutureICT activities through introduction in various national RTD activities, where we intend 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.
Letter of support for the participation of Research teams of the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology on the Future and Emerging Technologies Flagship Initiatives (FET Flagships) of the EU

1. The Swiss Federal Council has stated both in its legislative programme for 2012–2015 and in its annual objectives for 2012 that it gives considerable importance to Swiss participation in Future and Emerging Technologies Flagship Initiatives (FET Flagships) and that it intends to create the best possible conditions for Swiss partners to take part in these initiatives.

2. The Swiss Federal Council favours FET Flagship Projects that are either entirely coordinated in Switzerland or whose research is coordinated in Switzerland. As the three relevant FET Flagship Projects (FutureICT, Guardian Angels & Human Brain Project) are all part of the ETH Domain, the Federal Council Dispatch on Education, Research and Innovation (ERI Dispatch) for 2013-2016 mandates the ETH Domain to enable Swiss participation in FET Flagships. On 22 February, the Swiss Federal Council allocated to the ETH Domain a financial envelope of CHF 9'481 million for the period 2013-16, subject to parliamentary approval. This budget is to cover all the ETH Domain’s activities (education and research). The use of the funds is being defined in a performance mandate, also subject to parliamentary approval. The performance mandate foresees co-funding for successful Swiss FET Flagship Projects. The budget for the next funding period (2017-2020) will be allocated in 2016.

3. The ETH Domain consists of the two Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich and Lausanne and four research institutes. The ETH Board’s core tasks include strategic planning for the ETH Domain, long-term financial and investment planning, the allocation of funds approved by the Federal Assembly to the two Federal Institutes of Technology and the four research institutes, the terms of reference for the budgets, as well as the preparation of the consolidated budget and the consolidated accounts of the ETH Domain.

4. On the basis of the terms of reference provided by the performance mandate and the budget appropriation as set out in the ERI Dispatch, the ETH Board – following parliamentary approval - concludes four-year target agreements with the two Federal Institutes of Technology and the research institutes and allocates federal resources, basing its decisions, in particular, on the yearly budget requests submitted by the two Federal Institutes of Technology and the research institutes. The objective is to fully comply with the performance mandate established between the federal government and the ETH Board.

5. In view of the FET selection process, the ETH Board will discuss and decide the concrete co-funding for the ramp-up phase after the successful FET Flagships have been communicated.
and detailed funding requests are available. The dedicated co-funding from the ETH Board will be in addition to foreseen or existing and approved co-funding (in kind, in-infrastructure, or in-cash) from the two Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich and Lausanne, from existing National Research Programmes (i.e. National Centres of Competence in Research) or from third parties.

6. The Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich and Lausanne will submit separate letters of support. These letters will contain detailed information on the funding sources implied.

7. The State Secretariat for Education and Research and the ETH Board will collaborate closely in order to support the success and the positive development of the FET Flagship Projects coordinated or whose research is coordinated in Switzerland.

State Secretariat for Education and Research

Dr. Mauro Dell’Ambrogio
State Secretary

ETH Board

Dr. Fritz Schiesser
President
Notable Individuals
March 30, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Institute for New Economic Thinking and Central European University I am writing to express strong interest in this scientific endeavor and in collaborating with the candidate flagship FuturICT and the team Professor Helbing is creating.

The Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) www.ineteconomics.org has been founded to foster and create new interdisciplinary ways to address social and economic problems. Applications of network theories to system evolution, political-economic interactions and psychologically sophisticated approaches to understanding system dynamics are just a few dimensions of exciting new research that our fellows will be working to develop.

Central European University, INET and a number of leading universities are working to establish a network of campus based joint venture institutes around the world to further invigorate our research agenda. The first of which, in conjunction with the Oxford Universities 21st Century School will begin to operate shortly. This interdisciplinary network will add further strength and depth of scholarship to the pursuit of new and deeper understanding of a myriad of social issues.

The team of scientists that Dr. Helbing has gathered together can, I believe, make a significant contribution to the understanding of the evolution and change in societies as they meet the formidable issues of governance, climate change, sustainable economic balance that we are all faced with in the coming decades. I look forward to CEU and INET joining with FuturICT to address these daunting challenges in the coming years.

Sincerely yours,

George Soros
Dear Mr. Linnér,

With this letter I support the idea to develop a broad Decision Arena in the framework of the FuturICT EU flagship proposal.

I see a particular importance in the exploration of the risk of transgression to unsafe planetary boundaries, for instance the ozone hole and the impact of scarce and dwindling phosphorus and global food production.

With best regards,
Paul Crutzen.