

March 5th 2012,

FuturICT - Letter of support

To whom it may concern,

The IBBT (Interdisciplinary Institute for Broadband Technology, www.ibbt.be) is an independent research institute that is founded by the Flemish government to stimulate ICT innovation. Its mission is to create a lasting and positive impact on society through innovations in ICT. As a pioneer in demand-driven research, it offers companies and organizations active support in research and development. Also, it brings together companies, authorities, and non-profit organizations to join forces on research projects. IBBT unites a core of 1000+ scientists from 5 research departments (Health, Internet, Media, Security and Digital Society). These departments have excellence in research domains with a high societal relevance, such as culture & media, healthy society, green ICT, sustainable mobility and social & secure ICT.

In addition, the IBBT has an extensive develop and test environment (www.ibbt.be/en/develop-test) with two important branches: (1) iLab.t provides lab infrastructure to evaluate technical feasibility, performance, and service quality of ICT innovations at the earliest possible stage, (2) iLab.o helps to set up a large-scale trial outside the lab environment. To complement the research work, IBBT has a strong focus on entrepreneurship (www.ibbt.be/en/entrepreneurship). The goal of IBBT's Entrepreneurship and Valorization program is to bring ICT innovations to the market, either by helping to build successful high-tech ICT ventures or by driving innovation in industry partnerships. To achieve this, IBBT offers a range of training, incubation and networking services that are supported by an active ecosystem of entrepreneurs, financial organizations, industrial partners and research departments.

With this letter, the IBBT expresses its interest to participate in the FuturICT Flagship Initiative, which aims to address and understand the fundamental and techno-socio-economic problems of our society through the integration of ICT, complexity science and social science. The FuturICT flagship addresses some of the most important challenges for our future society, and the proposed paradigms are well aligned with the ambitions and activities at IBBT. In particular, the research teams of IBBT have strong expertise in areas that are in line with the FuturICT project.

The IBBT believes that the FuturICT project will make an important impact on the global society, and outlines its strongest support to collaborate in the FuturICT project, should the venture be successful.



Wim De Waele, CEO IBBT

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