To whom it may concern,

As President and CEO of Inria, I want to express my strong interest and support to the FuturICT flagship initiative.

As you may know, Inria, the French national institute for research in computer science and control, operating under the joint authority of the Ministries of Research and of Industry, is dedicated to fundamental and applied research in information and communication science and technology (ICST).

Throughout its eight research centres, INRIA has a workforce of 4 300 (3 400 of whom are scientists from INRIA or from INRIA's partner organisations such as CNRS (the French National Center for Scientific Research), universities and leading engineering schools), including about 1200 PhD students.

Presently, research activities of Inria are organized around seven priorities:

- Modeling, simulation and optimisation of complex dynamic systems
- Programming: security and reliability of computing systems
- Communication, information, and ubiquitous computing
- Interaction with real and virtual worlds
- Computational engineering
- Computational sciences
- Computational medicine

Most of these activities are closely connected with societal challenges such as health and well-being, energy, environmental changes, etc.

As its strategy closely combines scientific excellence with technology transfer, Inria develops strong collaborations with its socio-economic environment through strategic industrial partnerships and about 100 companies have stemmed from Inria since 1984.

Inria contributes in a significant way to the development of the European Research Area. The Institute is presently involved in more than 150 projects, including 90 projects in the ICT field. Inria is also very proud to host 23 ERC laureates (5 of them in Mathematics and 18 in Computer Science).

After this brief description of Inria activities, you will easily understand our strong will to take our part in the solution of the grand challenges proposed by FuturICT. The vision and the ambitious objectives integrating computer science and engineering, natural and social sciences together with a very high potential impact for our Future are completely in line with Inria ambitions for the coming years.

We are in the process of setting up an internal organisation in order to contribute as efficiently as possible to the first phase of FuturICT. If, as we expect, FuturICT is eventually selected, Inria intends to play a key role in this outstanding initiative. It is clear that Inria plans to devote significant resources to FuturICT, but the exact amount is still under discussion.

One last and important point, Inria is candidate to be a Core Member of FuturICT.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Michel Cosnard,

President and CEO of Inria