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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
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