



Technische Universität München

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Munich, March 30th 2012

Letter of support “FuturICT”

Dear Professor Helbing,

As the President of the Technische Universität München I enthusiastically support Prof. Sandra Hirche leading a group of excellent TUM-scientists in the FET Flagship FuturICT and thus TUM joining this high-level consortium as a partner.

As the leading technical university in Germany, TUM has established interdisciplinary structures and research areas to tackle tomorrow's challenges by building bridges between disciplines, intertwining the departments, and by involving additional regional (e.g. Ludwig-Maximilian University, Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Helmholtz, Fraunhofer, German Aerospace Center DLR) and international partner institutions. Current mega themes such as Information & Communication - Energy & Natural Resources - Environment & Climate - Health & Nutrition - Mobility & Infrastructure do not remain in their disciplines alone but exceed in their complexity previous scientific challenges. The solution of such complex problems requires multidisciplinary networking and bundling of intellectual and financial resources within Europe.

FuturICT is perfectly aligned with the TUM overall strategy to address complex scientific challenges of high societal relevance. Particularly the synergy with our core strategic area “Information & Communication” is significant. The TUM-group headed by Prof. Hirche includes leading experts in complex networked systems, in particular in data analysis, communication, decision making and control in complex large-scale networked systems.

Prof. Hirche is one of the Principal Investigators in TUM's Cluster of Excellence “CoTeSys”, established by the German Research Foundation (DFG) within the framework of the German Excellence Initiative. This cluster follows



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the approach to combine methods from neurocognition-psychology with methods from informatics-engineering to realize technical cognition. This cluster currently attracts third party funds of around 3.7 Mio € per year coming from public and industry funded projects.

The upcoming MUNICH CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY IN SOCIETY (MCTS) will be established as a cross-faculty Integrative Research Center at TUM in order to consolidate research on technology-oriented science from the perspectives of the humanities and social/human sciences. In the near future seven new professorships will be established within this center financed from industry, public funding and TUM's own resources. Therefore, MCTS would greatly enrich the activities of FuturICT regarding socio-economic systems and socially inspired ICT.

TUM offers also access to large-scale computational resources like the technical and scientific high performance supercomputing centre Leibniz-Rechenzentrum, (LRZ). This centre develops and provides the know-how for a nation-wide high performance centre - the highest concentration of supercomputing power within Germany. Additionally, in 2012 a new supercomputer will be fully operational and available for European researchers.

Furthermore, the Institute for Advanced Study (TUM-IAS) represents a power center for top-level research at our university and equips top-level scientists with time, scope, and resources for creative, innovative research. The FET Flagship FuturICT will benefit from the IAS fellowships attracting top researchers from academia and industry from all over the world. As a member of the Advisory Council Prof. Hirche takes part in strategic decisions of the TUM-IAS and therefore an organic connection of the FuturICT and the IAS is guaranteed.

If FuturICT succeeds, TUM will attract even more funds that we could commit to the FuturICT. We expect that TUM with the excellent scientists involved and lead by Prof. Hirche will bring world-leading expertise into the consortium. As the President of TUM, I therefore strongly support the active participation of Prof. Hirche in FuturICT.

Sincerely,



Prof. Wolfgang A. Herrmann
President