



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK

O L L S C O I L L U I M N I G H

Letter of Support for FuturICT FET Flagship

20th December 2011

To whom it may concern,

As Vice President for Research at the University Of Limerick (UL), I am pleased to confirm UL's support for the FuturICT FET Flagship proposal.

The goal of the FuturICT Flagship is to understand and manage complex, global, socially interactive systems, with a focus on sustainability and resilience. By unifying the efforts of hundreds of the best scientists in Europe to explore social life on earth and everything related to it, the FuturICT Flagship proposal will produce historic breakthroughs and provide powerful new ways to manage challenges that make the modern world so difficult to predict, including the financial crisis.

The success of FuturICT will require unprecedented interaction between mathematicians and scientists from other disciplines, and I believe that UL is particularly well-placed to contribute to this effort. Professor James Gleeson is co-director of the Mathematics Applications Consortium for Science and Industry (MACSI), and his research group is very active in the area of dynamics on complex networks. They apply their mathematical modelling techniques to better understand the spreading of diseases and of rumours over social networks, and have also made some important progress on the modelling of systemic risk in banking networks. As part of MACSI, their work is always closely connected to real-world problems, with close collaborations with colleagues from engineering, science, and industry. MACSI was founded by the largest award ever made to mathematics in Ireland (€4.34 million), and the University has recognized the importance and relevance of this field by identifying Applied Mathematical Sciences as one of six priority research areas in its new Strategic Plan for 2011-2015.

In summary, I would like to express UL's strong support for the FuturICT initiative, and to confirm its interest in active collaboration should the venture be successful.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Mary Shire
Vice President Research

