

**The Board**

Spui 21  
1012 WX Amsterdam  
P.O. Box 19268  
1000GG Amsterdam  
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To ETH Zürich  
Prof. Dr. Dirk Helbing  
Clausiusstraße 50  
8092 Zürich  
Zwitserland

Date	Telephone	Your reference
20 January 2012	+31 20 - 2830 / 2689	-
Contact person	Enclosed	Our reference
Dr. A.J. Brentjes	-	2012cu0132
Email		
A.J.Brentjes@uva.nl		
Subject		
financial commitment + big data service proposal		

Dear Professor Helbing,

Through this letter, the University of Amsterdam expresses its endorsement and financial commitment to act as the national hub in The Netherlands for the FuturICT programme.

The interdisciplinary issues addressed in the programme are of great societal relevance and closely linked to our research priorities. Moreover, the programme in its supranational structure aims to combine scientific efforts across Europe.

The University of Amsterdam is one of the leading research universities in Europe and a member of the League of European Research Universities (LERU). It has a long history in Science, comprises one of the largest and best-ranked Social Sciences faculties in Europe and has a faculty of Economics and Business with European top research in behavioural economics and complexity. On its Science Park, the University of Amsterdam cooperates closely with national research institutes, such as the CWI (Centre of Mathematics and Informatics), and SARA, our joint venture in high speed computing with the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam. The Science Park Amsterdam also hosts one of Europe's largest internet hubs and new data centre facilities.

The University of Amsterdam therefore is pleased to take a leading role among Dutch universities and coordinate the Dutch contribution to FuturICT. On a rough budget estimate of 10 million euro per annum for the Dutch contribution, it is expected that 50% of the budget will be funded by the European Commission, 25% by in cash matching from the participating universities, the Dutch Government and the national Research Council, NWO, and 25% by in kind matching by the participating universities (computing power, salaries of team leaders, laboratories, premises, etc). As the location of the national hub, the University of Amsterdam will:

- (a) negotiate the participating universities' contribution to FuturICT,
- (b) make 1.000.000 euro per annum available from centrally held funds starting in 2013, and
- (c) make an additional contribution of 1.000.000 euro per annum through the participating faculties of Sciences, Social Sciences and Economics and Business, starting in 2013.

Our reference  
2012cu0132

The total value of UvA cash matching will therefore be 2.000.000 euro per annum starting in 2013. Of course, this commitment is conditional upon FuturICT securing the contributions from the European Commission; if that funding would not be awarded, the programme or the Dutch participation would have to be rethought.

We are planning to invest in the development of a National Hub and one or two Competence Centres.

But the University of Amsterdam jointly with the national institutes on Science Park offers to do more to support FuturICT, by providing support and services to manage the large amount of distributed and complex data and software that will become available through the work of European FuturICT teams. This not only implies a common access system, but also the coordination of developmental work and the (virtual) services to assist researchers in creating their preferred workflows with all FuturICT data and software resources.

The strong expertise and experience of our university, together with our regional and national partners, brings us in a competent position to address these challenges. We may mention expertise in the following European and international initiatives: the Netherlands eScience Center, LifeWatch (EU-funded ESFRI bio-diversity data infrastructure), the European Grid Initiative (EGI) and the SARA supercomputing facilities.

Our Rector Magnificus, Prof. dr. Dymph C. van den Boom, kindly accepts your invitation to attend the information exchange and discussions of the strategy at the FuturICT London meeting, February 8, 2012, and would be happy to give more details, together with the Deans of our participating faculties, of the huge potential of The Netherlands and the University of Amsterdam to support FuturICT. Could you please confirm that we have a slot in your meeting to present our plans and commitments for the development of FutureICT?

Please let me know if the University of Amsterdam can in any way help you to realize the programme, either directly or through our representative, Prof. dr. Cars Hommes.

Yours sincerely,  
the Board,

bica



Paul W. Doop,  
acting president

AB/EB (I:\12brief01, 0132a)  
c.c.: S&I/Brentjes, FEB/Hommes

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To University College London  
Prof. Dr. Steven Bishop  
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Engeland

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