

Dear ORU Review Committee,

I am very happy to have this chance to endorse the request by Prof. Jack Dongarra for University support in 2009 for his *Center for Information Technology Research (CITR)*. Jack and I have collaborated on various research projects over the last sixteen years, and it is clear that his group is at the leading edge of computational science research. I have always found it impressive that year after year, Jack's group maintains its momentum, visibility and productivity. The talented and highly professional support team that, with the University's support, he has recruited to CITR has played a crucial role in this remarkable record of success. Taken together with the CS research team at the Innovative Computing Laboratory which CITR supports, this group provides an beautiful model, both within UTK and nationally, of a successful academic research unit. It is no surprise that CITR/ICL has become an incubator for UTK research talent and interdisciplinary collaborations, spinning off several strong, independent research activities that CITR has continued to support.

Both in terms of ROI that you can easily measure in dollars, and in terms ROI that you can only measure in terms of international prestige and campus leadership, CITR has been an outstanding success, and consistently so. Therefore, I strongly urge you approve their budget request for 2009.

Sincerely,



James S. Plank