



Joint Institute for Computational Sciences

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January 28, 2009

Dear Organized Research Unit Review Committee:

The UT/ORNL partnership has achieved extraordinary advances over the last few years. Several joint faculty members have been identified and hired and are now producing not only outstanding students but also outstanding science. The University has established an unprecedented partnership with the National Science Foundation through the National Institute for Computational Sciences and is poised to lead the Nation's university research in computer science, the computational sciences, and engineering. Leadership in high-performance computing positions the University to achieve breakthroughs in science and engineering research that are essential in enabling the Nation to successfully confront today's challenges.

The dedicated efforts of Jack Dongarra and his highly-recognized research group have made significant contributions to the achievements in scientific research enjoyed by the University and other partners in high-performance computing. Jack and his team are deeply committed to building on that progress. I write to you in strong support of Prof. Dongarra's request for continued university funding in 2009 for the Center for Information Technology Research (CITR). The CITR provides essential development and administrative support for his research efforts, and the health and vitality of Prof. Dongarra's organization plays an indispensable role in helping UT/ORNL compete for funding opportunities as they arise.

I urge you to give his request for continued funding your strongest consideration to preserve the Center as necessary to sustain the leadership role this group plays to benefit the University and the UT/ORNL partnership.

Sincerely,

Thomas Zacharia
Director
Joint Institute for Computational Sciences

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