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Cambridge Research Laboratory

Rich Zippel

Director

March 28, 2001

National Science Foundation
Director, Office of Integrative Activities
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230

Dear Dr. Pitts:

Compaq's Cambridge Research Lab (CRL) is very interested in the success of the CGrADS project.

We are convinced this work is critically important. The transition successful completion of this project could bring about is analogous to transition from having a small electric generator in each home or office to having centralized power source. Just as centralized power was key to the productivity, reliability, affordability and accessibility of electricity, the ability to harness the "centralized computational source" available on the web is key to the productivity, reliability, affordability and accessibility of computing resources.

From Compaq's perspective our we hope is that the early stages of this project will result in a better understanding of the very real and very current problem of optimizing computation in a varying environment. In many of today's systems the availability of compute power, storage capacity and bandwidth is undergoing constant change. One simple reason is that the systems are not necessarily dedicated to a single job.

Compaq and Cambridge Research Laboratory (CRL) have both benefited from our on-going close relationship with the partners in the CGrADS project, especially with Rice. We have a good record of recruiting both summer interns and graduates from Rice. We have long-standing technical ties. A member of the CRL research staff, Kathleen Knobe, returned recently from short term visiting research scientist position at Rice. We have donated equipment and financially supported research by both faculty members and students. Compaq hopes to maintain and strengthen our relationship with Rice. Toward this end we recently held a joint Compaq/Rice symposium.

CRL is very pleased to endorse this effort. We understand that the project is to last 10 years. Our current hope is that we could participate throughout the life of the project and we expect to continue our involvement after the NSF funding has ended. We are able to commit to supporting Kathleen Knobe for 4-6 weeks for each of the first 5 years of this effort subject to periodic evaluation of the success of the project and its continued value to Compaq.

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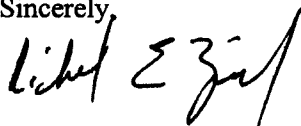
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Kathleen Knobe is the best choice from our lab to participate in this project. She received her PhD from MIT in 1997. She has been working in the field of parallel systems, specifically compilers for such systems for almost twenty years. She is on the Executive Committee for Sigplan, the ACM special interest group in programming languages. In addition, she is very enthusiastic about the project.

We feel that based on both the extremely high caliber of the participants (they are the absolute top in the area of high performance parallel and distributed computation) and their track record in previous efforts, this project has a very good chance of success and we are very pleased to be able to contribute.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions regarding this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Zippel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Richard Zippel
Director
Cambridge Research Laboratory

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