



**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Intellectual Property Management  
UH System

Office of the Vice President for Research  
University of Houston

March 30, 2001

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

Dear Dr. Pitts:

The University of Houston is pleased to participate with Rice University and the other partner sites at the University of California at San Diego, the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Southern California Information Sciences Institute, and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, in submitting this proposal to the National Science Foundation in support of a new Science and Technology Center. The proposed total project costs for the University of Houston's part of the Center, with Lennart Johnsson as Principal Investigator, are \$1,763,840 for the first five years. These costs are budgeted as \$1,356,800 from NSF and \$407,040 from the University of Houston.

The University of Houston computational and information related technologies and their use in science and engineering as well as other disciplines are an area of highest priority. The Center proposal addresses some of the core technologies in our vision of the future. We view the proven team of collaborators in this proposal as having the strong leadership and achievement on challenging research issues to successfully address the issues posed in the proposal. Several of the team members have had a significant impact on both academic research and on industry and we are convinced that the team will continue to strongly contribute to and influence the field.

We are in agreement with the underlying goals of the NSF STC program and will provide support over the ten-year life of the project with cost sharing commitments that match the goals of both the STC program and our institution. The support (\$407,040), equivalent to 30% of the funds requested from NSF, will be in the form of a project coordinator along with systems support (totaling \$212,266), faculty release time (totaling \$44,774), and equipment (totaling \$150,000) in the form of workstations, PCs and network servers as needed. The level of commitment of time and effort of the project coordinator and systems support are necessary to ensure the smooth operation of the program both technically and programmatically. Included in this cost sharing is the maintaining of high-speed network access to national and international networks.

We are confident that this project has all the ingredients for being a successful Science and Technology Center. It pulls together a truly impressive list of collaborators, with proven leadership skills, to work on a problem that will help leverage progress in many fields of scientific endeavor. We look forward to working together as a partner in this important effort.

Sincerely,

Arthur C. Vailas, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor for Research and Intellectual Property Management  
Vice President for Research