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Letter of Support for the EU flagship proposal FutureICT

In our positions as Rector of the Johannes Kepler University Linz and as Vice Rector for Research we hereby confirm our strong interest in and support for the EU flagship proposal FuturICT and to become one of the core signing partners. The Johannes Kepler University (JKU) has been characterised by a healthy growth since its foundation in 1965. Due to its expansive power, it ranks nowadays among Austria's most agile universities in research. By hosting a school of law, a school of social and economic sciences as well as a school of technology and natural sciences JKU will contribute to many of FuturICTs research challenges. Specifically we intend to bring in the expertise of our research departments in computer science, mathematics, complex systems and social sciences into the planetary nervous system (PNS) and the global participatory platform (GPP) of the FuturICT platform. In addition, JKU is hosting one of Austria's most powerful supercomputers, which could be used as a computing resource in the living earth simulator (LES). JKU also hosts the Austrian competence centre for mechatronics (ACCM) and a research lab on integrated radar sensors funded by the Christian Doppler Society. The expertise of both centres is expected to contribute to the research challenges identified in PNS. The thematic orientation of FuturICT is fully in line with our plans for research development and will allow many of our researchers both, to benefit from the cooperation in the network as well as to actively contribute.

We do see FuturICT as a unique opportunity for our university as well as for Austria to contribute and participate in an outstanding research network at European level. Besides the strategic importance of such a project, it is also an excellent instrument to promote interdisciplinary research and as stated above, JKU is willing and well prepared to play a key and coordinating role for Austria in the project.



Richard Hagelauer
(Rector)



Gabriele Kotsis
(Vice Rector for Research)