



March 28, 2001

National Science Foundation
Director, Office of Integrative Activities
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230

Department of
Contracts and Grants

Dear Dr. Pitts,

The University of Southern California-Information Sciences Institute is pleased to participate with Rice University, and the participating partner sites at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Indiana University, the University of California at San Diego, the University of Chicago, and the University of Houston in submitting this proposal to the National Science Foundation in support of a new Science and Technology Center. The University of Southern California-Information Sciences Institute's principal investigator will be Carl Kesselman. Our proposed effort is currently budgeted at \$1,374,400 for the first five years of the project.

We are fully supportive of this proposal and believe it can have a significant and positive impact on the future of high performance, distributed computing, progress of science, quality of investigators, quality of leadership and the collaborative nature of the effort shall have valuable effect on the research produced by our institution.

The University of Southern California-Information Sciences Institute is in agreement with the underlying goals of the NSF STC program and will provide support over the life of the project with commitments that match the goals of our institution as well. The University's support will consist of allocating significant usage of USC/ISI's Virtual Reality facility for this project. This facility will be an important piece of the distributed MacroGrid for the CGrADS project. Additional support over the life of the project will be provided through the use of USC's High Performance Computing Center and networking capabilities.

While some of these commitments represent new efforts at the University of Southern California-Information Sciences Institute, it is important to note that we have demonstrated history of supporting progress in the computational sciences, in improving the diversity of student participation, in increasing the participation of American student and in providing space and facilities to accomplished researchers.

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,

Lloyd Armstrong, Jr.
Provost & Senior Vice President
For Academic Affairs

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Enclosures
cc: USC School of Engineering
Margie Schroeder, ISI Contract Manager
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