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August 18, 2009

Professor Harvey B. Newman
Department of Physics
California Institute of Technology
256-48 HEP
Pasadena, California 91125

Dear Harvey:

On behalf of Internet2, we are pleased to write in strong support of the proposal you are submitting to NSF's International Research Network Connections (IRNC) program, entitled, "IRNC: ProNet: DYNESTAR: A Dynamic Network System for Transatlantic Research." This proposal is likely to create a unique resource for the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) and the international scientific research community. It also is likely to enhance global collaboration through the development of a hybrid, resilient, dynamic, high-performance Transatlantic network.

The proposal's strengths include its:

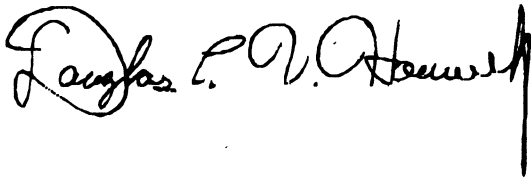
- opportunity to build upon Caltech's momentum regarding creation and enhancement of next-generation networks and applications for LHC and the High Energy Physics community;
- likelihood of playing a critical role in meeting the network needs of the broader scientific community as research continues to become more data-intensive; proven collaborative record with partners including CERN, US LHCNet, Internet2, NLR, ESnet, NREN, RNP, and ANSP; and
- likely enhancement of global collaboration through the creation of a hybrid, resilient, dynamic, high-performance, optical network to accommodate transatlantic research projects involving large data exchanges.

As many end-to-end paths of interest to the HEP community link international sites with American universities and labs, strong network support from the High Energy Physics research community, Caltech, and Internet2 is crucial. We expect to continue that close working relationship across the international links funded by this proposal.

Internet2 is a consortium of advanced networking institutions in the United States. Led by the research and education community since 1996, Internet2 promotes the missions of its members by providing both leading-edge network capabilities and unique partnership opportunities that facilitate the development, deployment and use of revolutionary Internet technologies. With Internet2 Network's unique features of dynamic provisioning and carrier class reliability, and a governance structure that includes regional and campus representation, Internet2 is uniquely positioned to support the work of the High Energy Physics research community and all scientific disciplines that increasingly rely on international collaboration and large-scale data exchange, particularly in ambitious initiatives such as those offered by the NSF IRNC program.

We offer our strong support for this innovative proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas E. Van Houweling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent vertical line at the end.

Douglas E. Van Houweling
President and CEO