June 14, 2012

European Technology Platform
for High Performance Computing

Dear Vice-President Kroes,

High Performance Computing (HPC) plays a pivotal role in stimulating Europe's economic growth. HPC is a pervasive tool allowing industry and academia to develop world class products, services and inventions in order to maintain and reinforce Europe's position on the competitive worldwide arena. HPC is also recognized as crucial in addressing grand societal challenges. "Today, to Out-Compute is to Out-Compete" best describes the role of HPC.

To utilise the potential of HPC, Europe needs to build its strengths in all parts of the HPC value chain, from applications to technologies. Today, Europe represents a significant portion of the world's available HPC resources; however, only a fraction of that technology and infrastructure is developed in Europe. A vibrant HPC technology ecosystem will benefit not only the HPC industry, but it will also be a source of competitive advantage for application developers and HPC users. The European Commission's Communication COM(2012) 45 "High Performance Computing : Europe's place in a Global Race" perfectly underlines this need. We welcome this Communication and its recognition of the strategic nature of HPC in Europe. We believe that the ETP4HPC meets the need identified in the Communication, for an industry-led platform that can play a key governance role in the years ahead.

In order to develop this ecosystem, we as key European players in the field of HPC research and industrial leaders have decided to form a European Technology Platform. This organization will be open to any player doing HPC research in Europe. Our objective is to define Europe's research priorities for the development of European IT technology in all segments of the HPC solution value chain. In this way, HPC will strengthen European competitiveness in almost all industrial domains and provide a key capability for future research and innovation.

We believe that we can significantly improve the position of Europe in the domain of HPC technologies through a research program that builds on current strengths, takes advantage of technological disruptions with a tangible and sustainable market potential, chooses technologies that meet the needs of important applications, facilitates the creation of start-ups and the development of the SME sector and utilizes synergies with other Information Technology sectors to impact also IT next generation computing. The ETP4HPC Vision Paper, attached to this letter, presents the directions that will guide our action.

We are committed to invest in such a program and to increase our research and development effort. A sustained support from the European Union will constitute a strong encouragement for industry to make such an investment. We consider it to be critically important that the

European Commission recognizes the ETP4HPC and supports our effort by launching an HPC technology R&D funding program aligned with the Strategic Research Agenda that will be prepared by the ETP.

It is of the utmost importance to launch this research program with an aim to develop European IT technology in all the segments of the HPC solutions value chain.
The consequences of this action will be a strong HPC technology ecosystem meaning:

- Competitive HPC solutions designed in Europe.
- An economically sustainable HPC sector.
- Better ability to use HPC and make it a competitive advantage for European research and industry.
- Reduced reliance upon technology from other regions that are investing heavily in their HPC technology development.
- Competitiveness of existing industrial sector and development of new activities.
- Solutions for societal challenges

We, the undersigned company and research organization executives emphasize the value of HPC as a key enabler for innovation and competitiveness and are fully committed to develop this domain. We believe that the Commission shares these goals with us and look forward to working together in launching an important research program in the field of HPC technologies.
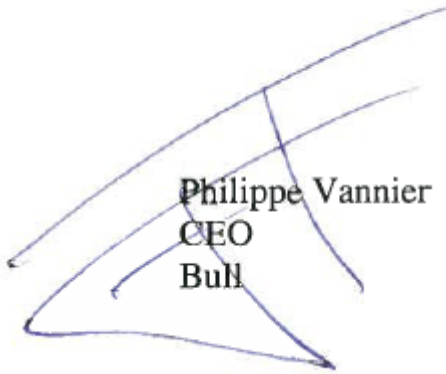
Yours sincerely,

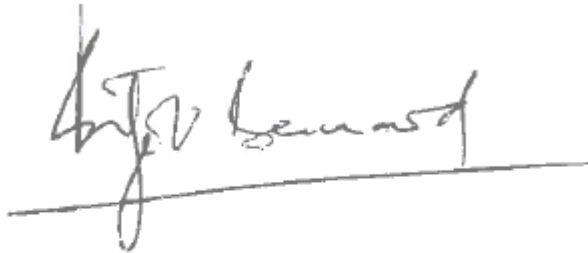David Lecomber
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ETP 4 HPC

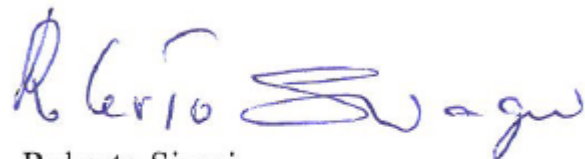Francesc Subirada
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