

Toulouse, April 27, 2016

Le Directeur

To whom it may concern



Laboratoire d'analyse
et d'architecture des systèmes

7, Avenue du Colonel Roche
BP 54200
31031 TOULOUSE Cedex 4

T. +33 (0)5 61 33 62 00
F. +33 (0)5 61 55 35 77
www.laas.fr

As director of the LAAS, it is my pleasure to give my full and enthusiastic support for the TMBI project, of which the LAAS is an important element. The LAAS is a CNRS laboratory that is a world leader in automatics, robotics, informatics and micro/nanotechnology with over 200 permanent researchers, 130 support staff, 12 postdocs and 260 PhD students.

While the TMBI project is still very new (I only heard about it for the first time at the end of March), there has been an enthusiastic response from many people at the LAAS. Indeed, I was the first to show my enthusiasm by signing up as a member. Since then, the number of LAAS scientists who have signed up has increased steadily to reach 13 - of whom 12 have permanent positions. But I firmly anticipate that the number will increase even more when people realize that the TMBI provides a remarkable way to breakdown the barriers to interdisciplinary research in Toulouse.

I'm particularly pleased to see that the TMBI's proposal for a Cognitive Science Masters program includes an introductory module in Robotics and Sensory Systems that is organized by some of the highest profile people at the LAAS, including Jean-Paul Laumond who has an ERC Advanced Grant and is permanent member of the French Academy of Technology. Other members of the LAAS will also be participating in the introductory module in Artificial Intelligence & Computational Modeling.

It is therefore with a great deal of enthusiasm that I write to support this innovative proposal.

Liviu Nicu
Director of LAAS-CNRS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Nicu', written over a horizontal line.