



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
PERVASIVE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

July 23, 2012

John Towns
XSEDE Project Manager
NCSA, Room 3034
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
1205 W. Clark St.
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear John:

FutureGrid (Indiana University) wishes to participate in the XSEDE Federation and SP Forum as a Level 1 Service Provider (SP) through its delivery of a flexible development and testing platform for middleware and application users looking at interoperability, functionality, performance or evaluation as well as a rich education and teaching platform for advanced cyberinfrastructure (computational and computer science) classes.

FutureGrid benefits directly from visibility thru the XSEDE environment and from several particular services. Initially, we have benefitted from EOT to a great extent, but other XSEDE services like Advanced User Support can and will be beneficial to us in the future. XSEDE benefits from FutureGrid as FutureGrid has support for users and usages not easily supported by other XSEDE resources. Education and training (class) support, Science cloud prototyping, computer science and middleware experimentation, and technology evaluation are done especially well by FutureGrid. The evaluation category includes testing of XSEDE software itself.

We have reviewed the XD Service Providers Forum: Charter, Membership, and Governance document (version 10.1, dated 2 February 2012) at https://www.xsede.org/documents/10157/281380/SPF_Definition_v10.1_120228.pdf which defines the mutual responsibilities of XSEDE and an SP, and are confident that we can and will fulfill our obligations as described therein. I note that differences between base operating environments on FutureGrid (Eucalyptus, Nimbus, OpenNebula, OpenStack as well as HPC) and immaturity/rapid change in cloud environments can give delays/difficulties in meeting some of XSEDE requirements in areas like accounting.

In the event that you have an issue with our performance, please contact me, directly. Similarly, if we perceive an issue, we will contact you. In either case we commit to work with you to resolve any issues. We at [name of organization] look forward to working with XSEDE to advance the mission of XSEDE and the NSF in advancing the nation's research capability.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Fox
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Professor of Informatics and Computing
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