April 3, 2014

Mr. John Towns
National Center for Supercomputing Applications
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Campus Mail Code: MC-257
1205 W. Clark St., Room 1008
Urbana, IL 61081

Dear John,

The Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) at The University of Texas at Austin wishes to participate in the XSEDE Federation and SP Forum as a Level 1 Service Provider (SP) through the provision and support of the HP/NVIDIA Interactive Visualization and Data Analytics System, **Maverick**. In addition, TACC will continue to contribute to the overall XSEDE project by participation in efforts within the Project Office, Operations, User Services, Extended Collaborative Support Services, Educations and Outreach, and Technology Insertion Service.

Maverick is an interactive visualization cluster with the capability to perform data analytics on big data sets. The system consists of 132 dual-socket nodes, each with significant computing and graphics capability. Total system resources include 2640 compute cores (Intel XEON Ivy Bridge), 132 NVIDIA Tesla K40 GPU accelerators, 33.7 TB of distributed memory (256GB per node) and an aggregate of 66 TB of local storage. Compute nodes also have access to a 20 PB global, Lustre Parallel file system, Stockyard. Maverick enables interactive visualization via multiple software packages including Paraview, and VisIt, and data analytics using software including MATLAB, IDL, and Parallel R. In addition to interactive remote visualization jobs, Maverick supports production, compute-intensive calculations on both the CPUs and GPUs. The large, per-node memory is intended to support serial and parallel visualization and data analysis applications that take advantage of large memory, multiple computing cores, and multiple graphics processors.

Integration of Maverick and the supporting TACC infrastructure into XSEDE provides the user community with access to interactive visualization and data analytics of big data sets (CPU and GPU) in the same platform, increasing user productivity and further enabling scientific discovery. TACC's contribution to XSEDE via Maverick and support of other XSEDE resources and services as an integral part of the XSEDE team will continue to remain of utmost priority.

TACC's participation in the XSEDE program has enabled the center to contribute to a national team effort to provide interactive visualization, data analytics, storage, and compute resources along with the expertise required to effectively use such resources, to researchers around the world. In addition, participation in the XSEDE project has enabled TACC to provide users across the state of Texas with access to resources they would not otherwise have access to and makes possible the expansion or enhancement of their research efforts, eventually allowing them to take advantage of other resources available within the partnership.

We have reviewed the *XD Service Providers Forum: Charter, Membership, and Governance* document (version 10.2, dated 16 July 2013, at: https://www.xsede.org/documents/10157/281380/SPF_Definition_v10.2_130716.pdf) defining the mutual responsibilities of XSEDE and an SP and are confident that we can and will fulfill our obligations as described therein.

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 working with you to resolve any issues.

We at TACC look forward to working with XSEDE to advance the mission of XSEDE and the NSF in advancing the nation's research capability.

Sincerely,

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