TEXAS ADVANCED COMPUTING CENTER
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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September 12, 2012

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 Sun Constellation Linux Cluster **Ranger** (OCI-0622780). 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.

Ranger is a compute cluster containing 62,976 cores within 3,936 compute nodes. Each compute node has 16 3.2GHz AMD Barcelona cores and 32GB of memory (aggregate of 123TB of memory). The system storage includes a 1.7TB parallel Lustre file system (configured as SCRATCH and WORK) and 31.4TB of local compute-node disk space. A visualization queue enables users access to remote visualization capabilities without having to move data to a visualization system. Ranger users also have access to the Ranch storage facility for long-term data storage.

Integration of Ranger and the supporting TACC infrastructure into XSEDE provides the user community with access to powerful HPC capabilities, enabling science that can only be provided on a handful of open science systems in the country. By integrating compute and visualization resources in the same platform, it increases user productivity and further enabling scientific discovery. TACC's contribution to XSEDE via Ranger and support of other XSEDE resources and services as an integral part of the XSEDE team will continue to remain of utmost priority.

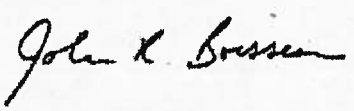
TACC's participation in the XSEDE program has enabled the center to contribute to a national team effort to provide compute and visualization resources along with the expertise required to effectively use such resources, to researchers around the world. In addition, participation in the XSEDE project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

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.pdf3) 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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