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Professor Geoffrey Fox
Dept. of Computer Science
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana

Dear Professor Fox:

I learned about the iSERVO proposal you are heading and which will be submitted to the International Program of NSF as a Virtual Center for Earth and Tsunamis. The Virtual Laboratory for Earth and Planetary Materials (VLAB) at Minnesota is also founded along these lines but for materials research. Dave Yuen and Marlon Pierce, who are participating in iSERVO, are also active members of the VLAB, so I greatly expect what is developed in VLAB on the IT front to be used for iSERVO and vice-versa.

This would be a good opportunity for cross-fertilization of the mineral physics and earthquake physics communities. I see this as having great societal value, since material properties do play a crucial role in fault dynamics. We can all learn a lot from one another.

For further information on VLAB, please consult the VLAB website, <http://www.vlab.msi.umn.edu> .

Sincerely,



Renata M. Wentzcovitch
Director, Virtual Laboratory for Earth and Planetary Materials (VLAB)
Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science
Fellow, Minnesota Supercomputer Institute