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Organization: University of Maryland College Park

Review #2

Proposal Number: 1305368

NSF Program: Computing Research Infrastructure

Principal Investigator: Raschid, Louiqa

Proposal Title: CI-P: Developing the Next Generation of Community Financial CyberInfrastructure for Monitoring and Modeling Financial Eco-Systems and for Managing Systemic Risk

Rating: Very Good

REVIEW:

In the context of the five review elements, please evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal with respect to intellectual merit.

The proposed project is a planning grant for creating a community financial cyberinfrastructure to provide a unifying framework for improved financial monitoring and systemic risk management.

Strengths:

The PIs have expertise in data management, language technologies and visualization. They have also assembled an impressive advisory committee, academic steering committee, and industrial partners. The potential community involvement has been well thought out and developed through the initial workshops.

Weaknesses:

The specific planning tasks to be carried out are not laid out in detail. While exemplars of the research challenges and existing community infrastructure are given, the extensions and unifying infrastructure is not clear. The tasks of the advisory committee and the interactions with the steering committee are not clearly laid out. The October 2013 submission date for the full proposal might also be too premature. Given the turnaround cycle, either the planning grant is not required, or the work to be done in the planning grant is not likely to be completed by the October deadline.

In the context of the five review elements, please evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal with respect to broader impacts.

Strengths:

There is a national need to develop computational research frameworks, models and methods for financial modeling and risk management. Significant effort seems to have been taken to identify the consensus needs of the community, and letters of commitment obtained from key partners. The planned research infrastructure will enable the study of a number of diverse problems, and can potentially have significant broader impact.

Weaknesses:

The discussion of the use of the proposed infrastructure for educational activities could be more elaborated upon. There is also little discussion of how the proposed activity will broaden the participation of underrepresented groups.

Please evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal with respect to any additional solicitation-specific review criteria, if applicable

Summary Statement

This proposal lays out the planning process for creating a community cyberinfrastructure for financial monitoring and risk management. There is a need for such infrastructure and the project can have significant broader impact. The PIs have significant expertise in related areas. While an impressive advisory and steering body has been assembled, the specific tasks to be carried out during the planning stage could be better laid out and discussed.

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