

15/09/11

Dr. Ian Rutt
Department of Geography, College of Science
Swansea University
Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP

Re: Shared frameworks for next-generation ice sheet modelling

Dear Ian,

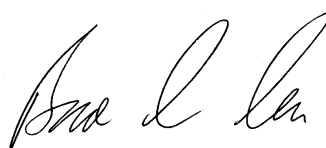
Thank you for the information on your grant application entitled “Shared frameworks for next-generation ice sheet modelling”. I am writing to indicate my desire to be involved as a supporter of this project. As you are aware I am keen to develop my skills and those of my PhD students in the use of numerical ice sheet models and this is a sentiment universally held within the Cryosphere and Climate Change Research Group in Aberdeen. There is currently a lack of people within the glacial community with the ability to run ice sheet models. So many scientists and their research groups have important and interesting scientific questions which need/would benefit from an ice sheet modelling component but these remain unaddressed because the potential collaborators have only a finite number of hours in the day. Therefore, the only way forward is to expand the “usability” of ice sheet models through less intimidating front-ends, better documentation, training workshops and training datasets, all of which are clear objectives of this proposal. This will allow non-specialists to begin to utilise numerical ice sheet models themselves to address their individual scientific goals. This approach is reflected, in microcosm, in the Cryosphere and Climate Change Research Group in Aberdeen. Through assistance and collaboration from modelling specialists we have been developing the skills of PhD students in the running of complex numerical models (which lie beyond the expertise of our group) to address specific aspects of their projects.

This expansive approach, embedded within your own proposal, is reflected in collaborative efforts to widen ice sheet modelling expertise in Scotland via a training programme under the auspices of the SAGES (Scottish Association for Geoscience, Environment and Society) community.

I can confidently say that myself and PhD students in Aberdeen will benefit directly if this proposal is funded as we will be keen participants at the Training Events (WP6). This will allow us to begin to more fully address some of the science we are currently researching. Additionally, I can commit that myself and relevant PD students will provide input/feedback on training materials and documentation during their preparation stage in order to maximise usability and potential impact.

I wish you well with the application and look forward to contributing my support and reaping the ultimate rewards it will bring to the community.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Brice R. Rea (b.rea@abdn.ac.uk)