To Whom It May Concern:

It is my honor to recommend Yogesh Prasad for PhD program at the University of Arizona. I have had the pleasure to know and work with Yogesh for the last nine years. He first worked with me as a Trader and got promoted to take on a strategic role as a Vice President at NorthCoast Asset Management.

Yogesh brings to all of his activities energy, enthusiasm, and commitment. This is to be expected in any successful member of an entrepreneurial organization, and in this regard, Yogesh fits in well. Be it in the parsing of intricate algorithms in a trading system, the crafting of an operational efficiencies, or the establishment of best practices in implementation of the investment decisions, Yogesh consistently delivers high-quality investment practices for our organization. This speaks to his overall intellect and ability to learn, attributes that will serve him well in his post-graduate study.

While Yogesh joined as a relatively junior member of our organization as measured by tenure in 2010, he quickly established himself as a go-to person in the product domains in which he has worked. He has been ever-willing to work with members of our organization to share his knowledge and expertise, most notably as a presenter for presentations on product functions.

He has a deep-rooted spirit of helpfulness that, coupled with his quick grasp of subject matter, speaks well to his potential as a teaching assistant or instructor.

What I find most engaging in Yogesh’s character are his wide-ranging interests outside of Finance and Investments. Two of his abiding interests are machine learning and economics. He can be quickly engaged in an in-depth discussion, for instance, of the impact of machine learning in economic forecasts, various portfolio optimization theories, the lack of rationality of the financial markets, or the optimal approach for making a few cents on fantasy sports. Yogesh’s broad range of interests speaks well to his potential as a researcher, both in bringing a wide range of theory to the research at hand, as well as carrying forward new hypotheses of interest to researchers.

Yogesh Prasad is a valued member of our organization whom we have learned we can rely on, regardless of the difficulty of the task to hand or the novelty of the challenge. His combination of intelligence, commitment, perseverance, creativity, and a compassionate character will certainly make him a valuable member of any academic program. I encourage you to look favorably upon his application.

Sincerely,

Frank Ingarra

Senior Vice President

Head of Trading & Technology

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