



## HARVARD University NASA Tournament Lab



August 7, 2012

Karim R. Lakhani

Associate Professor, Harvard Business School

Principal Investigator, Harvard-NASA Tournament Laboratory

Harvard University

1737 Cambridge Street

Cambridge, MA 02138

**To Whom It May Concern:**

Recommendation for TopCoder handle – Vijay84529

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is an enthusiastic recommendation in support of Vijaya Krishna Kasula's outstanding accomplishments in the NASA Robots algorithmic challenge, a contest administered by TopCoder, Inc. for the NASA Tournament Lab.

The algorithmic challenge is designed to truly and effectively measure computational, critical, and cognitive thinking skills. Additionally, success in this challenge required combining such thinking skills with the ability to iteratively implement various approaches using a programming language in rounding out an overall "thought to solution" process under the stress of time and performance constraints.

The challenge in this contest posed an algorithmic development problem that is considered to be one of the most difficult in the suite of problems within the TopCoder platform. Vijaya Krishna Kasula directly competed against nineteen other contestants and finished 4th within the group of competitors.

It is for these reasons that we offer highest recommendations for Vijaya Krishna Kasula without reservation. Vijaya Krishna Kasula's algorithmic skills, as demonstrated by this contest, will be a valuable asset to any organization looking for analytic and computational talent. Vijaya Krishna Kasula has set the bar high for future competitions in this field.

Should you have any questions about these achievements in this competition, please do not hesitate to contact Jin Paik at [jpaik@iq.harvard.edu](mailto:jpaik@iq.harvard.edu) or call 1(617)496-2607.



HARVARD University  
NASA Tournament Lab



Yours sincerely,

Karim Lakhani  
Principal Investigator  
Harvard-NASA Tournament Lab

On behalf of:

Mike Lydon  
Chief Technology Officer  
TopCoder, Inc.

Jason Crusan  
Director, Advanced  
Exploration Systems  
Division at NASA

Kevin Boudreau  
Chief Economist  
Harvard-NASA Tournament  
Lab