



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**GEOPHYSICAL FLUID DYNAMICS LABORATORY**  
Princeton University  
Forrestal Campus, US Route 1  
201 Forrestal Road  
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

22 February 2013

Support Letter for ESGF

Ronald J Stouffer  
Physical Scientist GFDL/NOAA  
Head of the Climate Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP) Panel

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald J. Stouffer".

To whom it may concern:

The CMIP activity is an organized effort by the world's climate modeling community to freely provide climate information to other scientists and anybody who is able to download and process the data. These data sets are being used for analysis and increased scientific understanding. They provides the scientific basis for many of the international climate reports, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment report due out later this year. The scientific findings in the IPCC reports provide input to climate policy negotiations between and among countries. The CMIP database is therefore of extremely high value to society both inside the U.S. and the world.

The total amount of data under CMIP Panel oversight is about 4 Pb and is one of the larger databases in the world. This data does not reside on any one server but is distributed around the world across 10's of data servers. ESGF provides the infrastructure which allows the data to be useful to those who try to obtain data from the CMIP database. This software is extremely complex as in involves allowing various servers to access information on each other across the internet and the security issues associated with that process.

There is an urgent need for more funding support for the ESGF activity. Without the support, it is possible that serving the CMIP database as outlined above will no longer be possible which will greatly hinder the advancement of climate science.

Therefore I strongly support the ESGF proposal.

