

Steward Observatory
Director's Office

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ARIZONA®
TUCSON ARIZONA

Tucson, Arizona 85721
Telephone: (520) 621-6524
Telefax: (520) 621-7852

January 21st, 2004

Major Research Instrumentation Program
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Selection Committee,

This letter is intended to convey our strong and enthusiastic support for the NSF MRI proposal entitled "Development of a Submillimeter-wave Superheterodyne Camera (SuperCam) for the Heinrich Hertz Telescope." SuperCam will be the first large-format, high resolution imaging spectrometer at submillimeter wavelengths. It will increase the mapping speed in many important astrophysical emission lines by more than an order of magnitude, making possible observational studies that until now have been intractable. We believe SuperCam will revolutionize spectroscopic studies in the same way the advent of SCUBA revolutionized observations of thermal dust emission in the far-infrared. Once SCUBA became operational, it dominated the observing programs on the JCMT. We expect the same will happen with SuperCam on the HHT. In anticipation of this we plan to dedicate at least two months a year, one in the fall and one in the spring, to the types of survey programs outlined in this MRI proposal. We believe SuperCam will make excellent use of the HHT and have a lasting impact on the field.

Sincerely,



Peter A. Strittmatter, Director
Steward Observatory