



Nuclear Scie

July 15, 2009

Professor Jiri Drahos
President of the ASCR
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
Narodni 3, 117 20 Praha 1
Czech Republic

Dear Professor Drahos:

From our colleagues and some recent issues of nature, I learned that there will be a significant change in core funding for Czech universities and research institutes. We are deeply concerned that this may lead to a huge cut on funding for the Academy of Sciences in Czech Republic in the future. If such mishap occurs, this severe cut in funding may endanger the very existence of one of the pillars of the Czech science and research.

Many important and impressive results have been obtained by this institution and further achievements can be expected as there are a number of world-class scientists in the Academy with whom we collaborate closely. In addition, the success of the Academy provides motivation for young people to choose careers in science and research. Furthermore, the severe restriction of the activities of the Academy of Sciences would run against the acknowledged fact that sustained long-term expansion of the economy is impossible without strong science and research.

We are firmly convinced that further development of the Academy of Sciences is in the best interests of the Czech Republic and the people from all over the world. We urge the government to reconsider the planned cuts and keep the funding of the Academy of Sciences at the appropriate level.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "N. Xu".

Dr. Nu Xu
Spokesperson for the STAR Collaboration
Senior Staff Scientist
Nuclear Science Division
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory