NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATI
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

Alan,
Paul suggested I send you a copy of this letter to Prof. Giacconi.
I am checking to see that Kath received her copy - and - if not - will send one to her as well.
Carl Stahlhofer

September 1, 1999

Dr. Riccardo Giacconi
Associated Universities, Inc. (AUI)
1400 16th Street, NW
Suite 730
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Dr. Giacconi:

My name is Jerry Stuck and I'm the Deputy Director of the Division of Information Systems at the National Science Foundation. After Mark Haselkorn completed his one-year appointment at NSF in October 1998, I assumed his duties as Coordinator for Year 2000 External Activities. I have read your original submission summarizing your Year 2000 compliance plans for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) and I have reviewed the quarterly reports submitted through the cognizant NSF program officer. Based on these quarterly reports, I have provided status updates through the Chief Information Officer to NSF management and the National Science Board. Although we are satisfied that progress is being made on Y2K compliance, NSF continues to be concerned about possible disruptions to our research constituents due to the Year 2000 date change problem. Our approach with major awardees like our FFRDCs and large contractors continues to be a meaningful exchange of information that does not burden researchers and managers, but enables us all to be confident that we are as prepared for Y2K as possible.

As you complete your work on addressing Year 2000 computer issues, it's important now to turn attention to assuring that your organization will function smoothly through the Year 2000 transition. We now request that you also focus on business continuity and contingency plans (BCCPs) for addressing problems that may occur during this transition. Enclosed for your use is a copy of the GAO publication, "Year 2000 Computing Crisis: Business Continuity and Contingency Planning" (August 1998). This is the guidance the federal government is using to develop BCCPs. The federal agency plans were based on the assumptions that electric power, natural gas, water service, waste treatment, financial services, transportation, public voice and data communications, the Internet, email service, and the mass media will be available domestically, although it is possible that there will be localized disruptions in some areas. In addition, a number of potential risks were identified: possible problems in internal systems, potential problems in commercial products, readiness of suppliers, readiness of those with whom data is exchanged, and the level of awareness of and reaction by your customers. This guidance addresses issues that are common to most large enterprises. It should be applied as necessary in response to the unique needs of your organization. Each organization must decide what assumptions and risks are appropriate as part of a continuity and contingency planning process.

With your next quarterly report to NSF, we request that you include a separate paragraph that summarizes business continuity and contingency planning at your organization. More detailed information concerning Year 2000 activities including business continuity and contingency planning can be found on the NSF Year 2000 Web site at http://www.nsf.gov/oirm/y2k/start.htm. Inquiries regarding the Year 2000 Problem may be directed to me by telephone 703-306-1160 or email gstuck@nsf.gov. Questions of a programmatic nature should be directed to your cognizant Program Official.

Sincerely,

Jerry Stuck

Jerry Stuck
Deputy Director
Divison of Information Systems

Attachment

Cc: A. Asrael, DGA, Rm. 485N
R. Dickman, AST, Rm. 1045S
R. Milner