



The SETI League, Inc.

a nonprofit educational and scientific corporation
Searching for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence

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9 March 1998

Ms. Susan Orr
The David & Lucile Packard Foundation
300 Second Street, Suite 200
Los Altos, CA 94022

Dear Ms Orr,

SETI - the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence - is one of the most exciting challenges facing mankind today. We know that it was dear to the heart of David Packard, your founder.

The SETI League, Inc. is a membership-supported, non-profit [501(c)(3)], educational and scientific corporation dedicated to electromagnetic SETI. We seek to determine through microwave measurements whether humankind is alone in the universe.

Our work, which aims at coordinating a worldwide network of amateur SETI stations in an "all-sky survey," is complementary to that being done by The SETI Institute. An amateur, working with a 10 to 15-foot satellite dish, can set up a viable station for between \$1,000 and \$3,000. Five thousand such stations could cover the entire sky. This is our goal.

The SETI League was founded in 1994. To date, we have over 750 members in 43 countries, with at least 40 stations "on the air" and around a hundred more in the planning and construction stages. We maintain an extensive web site (www.setileague.org), as well as ham radio nets and email discussion groups.

Our Executive Director, Dr. H. Paul Shuch, is an aerospace engineer credited with the design of the world's first commercial home satellite TV receiver and is a lifelong amateur radio enthusiast. As well as undertaking lecture tours and conference presentations, he is working on designs for SETI-related equipment. He also maintains our Internet presence, writes and produces the newsletter, and answers most of our incoming mail, both regular and electronic.

Our current operating budget is around \$150,000, of which maybe 20% is recovered through membership dues. The balance to date has come from two major private donors and several minor ones.

We should like to submit two proposals to the Packard Foundation. These are enclosed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Richard C. Factor
President



The SETI League, Inc.
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9 March 1998

Proposal to the David & Lucile Packard Foundation for grant to cover the acquisition and set-up of a permanent major research-grade radio telescope for The SETI League.

At present, the league does not have its own radio telescope, mostly because our donated office space is not in a suitable area due to its proximity to New York City and the radio frequency interference attendant to metropolitan areas.

We have identified several areas in which undeveloped land is available at reasonable prices and is radio-quiet. An approximate budget to afford us a site for our telescope (which would become the flagship station for our Project Argus all-sky survey) and also have laboratory facilities for research into dedicated equipment design and signal-processing software, a home for our expanding library, and a visitors' center cum museum of SETI-related artifacts follows:

- Land: \$100,000 - \$300,000*
- Laboratory/office building: \$150,000 - \$300,000*
- Radiotelescope mechanism: \$0 - \$300,000**
- Receiving and analysis equipment: \$5000-\$100,000***

Receipt of a lesser amount would still enable us to perform meaningful research.

- * Of course it might be possible to find a suitable facility with a building already existing, in which case the total cost would be somewhat lower, since relatively minor modifications of a standard building would be satisfactory.
- ** It might be possible to obtain a donation of a no-longer-operational dish from a local TV/Cable facility or from a government agency.
- *** Much of this equipment is manufactured by Hewlett-Packard. If we could obtain some needed items from HP they would, of course, become a corporate sponsor of the SETI League and would receive publicity as a result.



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9 March 1998

Proposal to the David & Lucile Packard Foundation for a grant to cover ongoing operating expenses and outreach programs

At present, The SETI League employs Dr. H. Paul Shuch as Executive Director on a full-time basis, works in donated office space, and has one part-time clerical worker. Dr. Shuch is a qualified scientist, yet his time is increasingly being occupied by clerical and other membership-support duties that could easily be performed by others if we had the budget to hire them.

In order to service our current membership base, while at the same time recruiting more members, encouraging builders of amateur SETI stations, and educating the public in general about SETI, we should like to request a grant of \$200,000. This would enable us to do the following over the next year:

- Hire a full-time administrator and public relations person
- Improve and produce our educational and mailing materials
- Reach a larger audience of potential volunteers through mailings, lectures, conference presentations, etc.