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Contactpersoon J.C. Diehl
Telefoon/fax +31 (0)15 278 2231/+31 (0)15 278 2956
Email j.c.diehl@io.tudelft.nl
Onderwerp Letter of support for Josh Astill



Technische Universiteit Delft

Faculteit Industrieel Ontwerpen
Design for Sustainability program

Adres
Landbergstraat 15
2628 CE Delft

To Whom It May Concern:

Developing a sustainable design methodology for New Zealand

Letter of support for Josh Astill to undertake research in the DFS programme at Delft University of Technology.


Since 1992 the DFS (Design for sustainability) programme has focused on the design of sustainable products, i.e. the creation of products that are (1) less toxic, use less materials and energy and are easier to reuse. (2) Contribute to the economy and (3) take into account social-cultural values. Next to methodology development for the eco-redesign of existing products the programme focuses on the development of dematerialised product service systems (PSS) and the integration of emerging energy technologies (PV, Fuel Cell and Human power) into portable products and transport means. A large part of the research is executed within an international context. Amongst others, projects are carried out in USA, Asia, Central America and Africa.

The programme and staff members are willing to aid Josh with his proposed research (Developing a sustainable design methodology for New Zealand) and case study work. Over the four month period from September to December 2005 we will give access to our information base, oversee the research and give guidance when needed. The resulting report and dissemination of the information aims to firstly create an overall awareness of sustainable product design to the manufacturing, design and Tertiary sectors of New Zealand and secondly catalyse the uptake of sustainable design methods into the product development processes of these various sectors.

The DFS programme is interested in the findings of this research and outcome of how the information is received. Along with Lund University in Sweden the DFS programme coordinates the production of a universal sustainable design learning package for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)(appendix 1). The development of a sustainable design methodology for New Zealand will be a good case study and may test some of the draft materials of the learning package.

We see this as a worthy pursuit and look forward to supporting Josh with his research and eventual goal of creating a sustainable product design industry in New Zealand.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Carel Diehl, M.Sc.
Assistant professor
Design for sustainability programme
Delft University of Technology