

POSITION STATEMENT TU DELFT EXECUTIVE BOARD REGARDING THE RESEARCH ASSESSMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING 2017-2022

The Executive Board of Delft University of Technology has commissioned an assessment of the research carried out by the departments Electrical Sustainable Energy (ESE), Microelectronics (ME) and Quantum & Computer Engineering (QCE) of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science (EEMCS) in the period 2017-2022. The assessment was carried out in 2024 by an international peer review committee, using the Strategy Evaluation Protocol 2021-2027. The chair of the peer review committee was prof.dr.ir. A.B. (Bart) Smolders (Eindhoven University of Technology). The full report of the peer review committee is available on the TU Delft website.

The Executive Board has accepted the report and wishes to express its gratitude to the committee for their work and for delivering a valuable assessment report. On the basis of the assessment report, additional information and the fruitful conversations during the site visit, the committee has provided comprehensive insights and recommendations that the departments can use to their advantage.

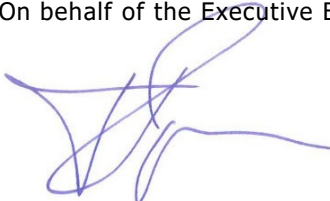
The Executive Board is pleased to read that the committee met with very dedicated staff members and was impressed by the demonstrations of the laboratories. It is additionally positive to confirm the high research quality of the Electrical Engineering departments and their viability to cope with the challenges ahead. However, the Executive Board is worried by the committee's observation that two recommendations from previous assessments, with regard to impact on funding and to PhD duration, did not yield the expected improvements. In line with the assessment committee the Executive Board urges the departments to take action on these topics. The Executive Board especially underlines the need to prioritize and implement radical and creative measures to improve the PhD experience.

The Executive Board wants to thank the committee for assessing two supplementary questions concerning the alignment with Europe's research agenda and the empowering of early and mid-career scientist and advises the departments to take the additional recommendations to heart. The need for the three departments to join forces towards the outside world has become increasingly clear during this assessment and the benefits of such collaborations are crucial for a viable future.

The department of ESE is performing cutting-edge research in carefully chosen topics and the committee is impressed by the outstanding quality of research products. The Executive Board supports all recommendations but would like to highlight the importance of including human behaviour and societal trends when relevant in ESE's focus areas. The department of ME is similarly producing excellent research but is missing out on opportunities in larger research initiatives due to limited collaborations with other departments and faculties. Finally the department of QCE is considered rather unique worldwide due to their application-driven "full stack" approach. While the current facilities are very good, keeping infrastructure state of the art and recruiting qualified technicians is a challenge for the department.

The Executive Board will discuss further the Faculty-level recommendations, as well as the observations and remarks concerning the departments Electrical Sustainable Energy (ESE), Microelectronics (ME) and Quantum & Computer Engineering (QCE), with the management of the Electrical Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science Faculty.

On behalf of the Executive Board of Delft University of Technology,



Prof.dr.ir. Tim van der Hagen
Rector Magnificus TU Delft