



RE: Statement by the Director of the Institute of Thermomechanics of the Czech Academy of Sciences on the Final Report “Evaluation of research and professional activity of research-oriented institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences for the period 2015–2019.”

(i) Statement on the evaluation procedure

The evaluation was carried out in line with the Methodology.

(ii) Statement on the Final Report

The management of the Institute believes that the original comments provided on the Final Report on June 2, 2021, prior to the reassessment procedure are still valid and relevant.

The Final Report is overall well elaborated and provides valuable feedback to the management of the Institute. However, we believe that some of the objections resulted from misunderstanding and a lack of time during the virtual on-site evaluation. In particular:

1. Part A, page 3: The Report states that “*PhD students have only part-time contracts (typically 20% (!!) in the beginning of their studies)*“. This concerns only students involved in full-time PhD studies at the partner universities, who receive stipends from their universities, are typically involved in teaching activities there, and have supervisors/specialist supervisors from IT CAS. The IT CAS contracts are on top of the stipends. Moreover, if such students are evaluated as excellent in the annual evaluation procedure by the IT CAS Doctoral Study Committee, their contracts can be raised to 40 % or even up to 60 %. Moreover, if the students are involved in grant projects, their contracts can be full-time. The employees of IT CAS who are involved in part-time or combined forms of PhD studies typically have full-time contracts at IT CAS.
2. Part A, page 6, Figure: Contribution of IT teams to the institute’s “main results” according to [A2]: The main results were attributed to particular departments by the evaluation committee according to the membership of the first authors. In some cases, authors from more departments have been involved, e.g. authors from department D6 were involved in 2, not 1, main results listed in section H1.4. Therefore, the graph is not fully representing the actual participation of particular departments on the selected main results of the Institute.
3. Part A, page 8: The Report states that “*The profitability of the contracted work remains questionable. For example, a 7-month contract for the development and manufacturing of sensors returned a revenue of 2k€ only in 2018 [A3]. This specific example raises concerns, if the engineering service has been offered at market conditions (full cost balance), which is a general required to prevent (public-funded) market distortion.*” The concerned length of the contract does not correspond to the actual amount of time spent on it by the employees of IT CAS but also contained logistical and technological periods. The price of the contracts is



evaluated based on the estimated actual workload, the internal cost of work for various employee categories, and the overhead. A similar case concerns a long-term agreement on contract research for the State Office for Nuclear Safety (SÚJB) mentioned in Part B on page 37 by the team of D4, in which several subtasks for the total price were done within the framework of this agreement. The subtasks were not conducted for the entire period of 24 months. The services of IT CAS are provided to the external subjects on fair and standard terms considering all the associated costs and effects for the Institute.

4. Part A, page 14: A comment to the statement *“There are no figures about the effectiveness of these centres provided.”* in the Final Report: The mentioned centers are organizationally integrated into departments D1 and D3 and their results were, therefore, reported in the corresponding sections of the report of these departments.
5. Part A, page 15: The Report states that *“The cooperation of team D6 „Electrical Engineering and Electrophysics“ to the remainder of IT appears quite limited to the evaluation commission. This might be an indicator that the integration of the former Institute of Electrical Engineering, which took place not before the year 2006, is not fully successful until today.”* During the virtual on-site evaluation meeting, information has been provided on several research projects in which Department D6 collaborates with the other IT CAS departments (D1, D2, D3, and D4) as a response to the question of a member of the evaluation committee. The measure of the integration of Department D6 is actually at a comparable level or even above the average compared to the other departments in IT CAS. This information has not, however, been reflected in the Final Report.

Prague, June 30, 2021

Miroslav Chomát

Interim Director