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**Coordination Board CAS**

Evaluation of the Research and Professional  
Activities of the Institutes of the Czech  
Academy of Sciences for 2010–2014

Ostrava, February 11, 2016

Ref. UGN/2016/174

Subject:

**Statement from the director of the institute on the course of evaluation and final evaluation report - Commission no. 8, Engineering and Technology**

We thank the Commission 8 for its work, its external view on the institute activities and provided recommendations. We thank for a generally positive view on the institute and the evaluated team including the expression that the institute as well as the evaluated team are very relevant in both, the national and international context.

We are aware of the weaknesses mentioned in the evaluation as necessity of continuous effort for improving the quality of publications, search for collaboration with top quality partners and participation in European projects. Some visible progress in all these topics was obtained in 2015 - the first year after the evaluation period. The collaboration among departments was also strengthened due to participation in new projects focused on nuclear waste deposition and geothermal energy.

Referring to the evaluated team of the Department of material disintegration, a more detailed specification of the recent progress can be seen from the following comments.

To 3.3) International cooperation:

The team has intensified its efforts to expand the international cooperation. More precisely, in 2015 it was granted the project of the START - Danube Region Project Fund of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region. As the project coordinator, they closely cooperate with several foreign universities and other entities. The aim of the START project is also the preparation of Horizon2020 project aimed on high speed water jet applications. Very recently, the team was also invited to joint teams within another H2020 project with geo applications of high speed water jet disintegration. The bilateral cooperation with other countries has been also extended. In 2015 the team signed the MoU with the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad (India) and University of Salerno (Italy). Long term visits of Ph.D. students from India are planned this year.

To 3.4) Small team size:

The team is progressively strengthened by young and promising workers, despite the lack of financial resources from the institutional financial support. This is reflected in the increasing number of team members: in 2010, the team consisted of 3.4 FTE scientific workers and 1.2 FTE PhD. students; at the beginning of 2016, there are 6.0 scientific workers and 2.3 FTE PhD. students.

To 3.5) Low number of publications:

At the beginning of the evaluated period, new instruments and measuring equipment were purchased, which has provided new directions of the research. Of course, the development of new skills for operating the equipment was very demanding and time-consuming. This significantly influenced the number of publications in the evaluated period. Although special attention was paid to increasing the quality of publications, the first results of this effort were achieved only in 2015, as the entire process of publishing is a long lasting procedure. In 2015 the team published several papers in high-quality scientific journals (2 papers in first-quartile journals and 4 papers in second-quartile journals).

Prof. Radim Blaheta

Director of the Institute