

## INDEPENDENT PEER REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE ON APPLICATIONS FOR HELMHOLTZ INTERNATIONAL LABS

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### A. Scientific Program

1. How would you rate the originality and innovative strength of the research project?
2. How would you rate the scientific quality of the work program and the description of the work packages / milestones at an international level?
3. How would you rate the feasibility of the proposed work program for the group, taking into consideration its scope, ambition and time schedule?
4. How would you rate the international standing, scientific track record and reputation of the Principal Investigators?
5. To which degree will this project strengthen the research portfolio of the Helmholtz association and its research fields?
6. Please comment on the existing and proposed research infrastructure. To what degree is it important for the success of the research project? What role does it play in national or international roadmaps in the respective research area?
7. Please name particular strengths and weaknesses of the proposal.

6. How would you rate the proposed research project overall in international comparison? Please use the definitions of the four categories further below when determining your grade.

- ☐ internationally outstanding (among the top 5%)
- ☐ excellent (among the top 15%)
- ☐ good (among the top 30%)
- ☐ average and below average

- *Outstanding: Extremely strong performance at the level of international leadership. Groundbreaking research with transformative impact and/or with high potential for significant societal impact. Essentially no weaknesses.*
- *Excellent: Very strong performance and innovative research at an exceptionally high international level. Significant impact on the field and/or potential for significant societal impact. Some negligible or minor weaknesses.*

- *Good: Overall performance at a nationally competitive level with solid potential for impact on the field. Several minor and at least one moderate weakness.*
  - *Average: Mediocre performance and unconvincing research approaches. Limited potential for relevant impact on the field. At least one major weakness.*
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## **B. International Cooperation**

1. Please assess the scientific fit of the partner institutions and, if applicable, their existing cooperation. To what extent do they complement each other in the area of the research initiative?
  2. Does the research project show potential to create more synergies between the partners involved and perhaps, beyond the current partners, potential to involve additional partners in both (or even further) countries?
  3. How do you rate the expertise and the joint management structure of the participating research groups?
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## **C. Promotion of Young Researchers**

1. How do you rate the proposal in terms of promotion of young and early career researchers? Are there sufficient means and possibilities to strongly involve this group?
  2. How strong is the general potential of the research group to attract talented young researchers in your opinion?
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## **D. Sustainability and future perspectives**

1. What is your assessment of the longevity of the project? Are you thoroughly convinced that this is a sustainable cooperation and that the use of the Helmholtz International Lab will be continued well beyond the initial funding period?
2. Do you see any risks or potential pitfalls with respect to the continuation of the cooperation beyond the initial funding period?

## E. Overall

### 1. Summary statement:

### 2. Final assessment:

- ☐ Funding strongly recommended
- ☐ Funding recommended
- ☐ Border-line case
- ☐ No funding recommended