

POSITION STATEMENT TU DELFT EXECUTIVE BOARD REGARDING THE RESEARCH ASSESSMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN ENGINEERING 2013-2018

The Executive Board of Delft University of Technology has commissioned an assessment of the research carried out by the departments of the Faculty of Industrial Design Engineering (IDE) in the period 2013-2018. The assessment was carried out in 2020 by an international peer review committee, using the Standard Evaluation Protocol 2015-2021. Chair of the peer review committee was prof.dr.ir. Jan Dul (Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands). 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 peer review committee for their work and for delivering a valuable assessment report, especially in the challenging circumstances of the Covid 19-pandemic. On the basis of the assessment report, additional information and the fruitful conversations during the online site visit, the committee has provided comprehensive insights and recommendations that the IDE Faculty and departments can use to their advantage.

The Executive Board is pleased that the committee considers the research quality, relevance to society as well as viability of the Industrial Design Engineering departments to be (very) good, and in some respects world leading. The committee considers the IDE research as mature and well-recognized academically, both within TU Delft and worldwide. The committee concludes that IDE's strategy is well-chosen and that collaboration within and outside both the Faculty and TU Delft is key. The committee suggests for IDE to balance broadness and focus, and to define the unity within diversity. Also, it is suggested to further develop IDE's strategic approach towards research assessment, collaboration, and the development and recruitment of staff, and to have a discussion about the word 'industrial' in the name of the IDE faculty, in relation to its strategy and potential.

In its report, the committee touches upon a number of subjects that can be improved or require attention. The Executive Board recognizes the potential to further increase the impact and visibility of IDE research. IDE is encouraged to develop a more holistic approach towards its research, also in light of the national and TU Delft-wide programs on 'Rewards and recognition', and of the TU Delft ambitions with regard to convergence. The Executive Board suggests to embrace the committee's recommendations regarding viability and PhD programmes, as well as the department-specific recommendations. The newly established Integrity Office and Diversity & Inclusion Office can assist in following up on the committee's remarks regarding both research integrity and diversity.

The Executive Board will discuss further the Faculty-level recommendations, as well as the observations and remarks concerning the specific departments, with the management of the IDE Faculty.

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



Prof.dr.ir. Tim van der Hagen
Rector Magnificus / Voorzitter