

POSITION STATEMENT TU DELFT EXECUTIVE BOARD REGARDING THE RESEARCH ASSESSMENT OF MECHANICAL, MARITIME AND MATERIALS 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 Mechanical, Maritime and Materials Engineering (3mE) 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, although the committee was asked to give only a qualitative assessment (in line with the Strategy Evaluation Protocol 2021-2027). Chair of the peer review committee was Prof. Dr. Arjan van der Schaft (University of Groningen, 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 3mE Faculty and departments can use to their advantage. The Executive Board considers all recommendations to be valuable and expects the Faculty to take them to heart.

The Executive Board is pleased that the committee considers the research quality, relevance to society as well as viability of the research at the Mechanical, Maritime and Materials Engineering departments to be very strong and internationally recognized. The Executive Board appreciates that the committee applauds the bottom-up approach to create collaboration and synergy, but also supports the recommendation to develop a faculty-wide research strategy. Considering the committee remarks about the functioning of the faculty leadership and management team, the Executive Board asks 3mE to work as a team in the development of the overarching faculty strategy. By deriving ambitious long-term goals from such a strategy, 3mE can maintain critical mass and focus, and become leader in 3-5 challenging societal and industrial application areas.

In its report, the committee touches upon a number of subjects that can be improved or require attention. The teaching overload is a concern that the Executive Board would like to see addressed, considering the implications for research. Furthermore, the Executive Board recognizes the remarks regarding tenure and promotion requirements, measuring research excellence and the organisational structure of the departments, and would like to see the recommendations being addressed. Also, the Executive Board suggests to embrace the recommendations regarding collaborations with medical schools, shortening the PhD duration and developing a pro-active plan regarding diversity, open culture and equity.

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 3ME Faculty.

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



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