

**POSITION STATEMENT TU DELFT EXECUTIVE BOARD REGARDING THE RESEARCH ASSESSMENT OF AEROSPACE ENGINEERING, 2014-2020**

The Executive Board of Delft University of Technology has commissioned an assessment of the research carried out by the departments of Aerospace Structures and Materials (ASM), Flow Physics and Technology (FPT), Control and Operations (C&O), and Space Engineering (SpE) of the Faculty of Aerospace Engineering in the period 2014-2020. The assessment was postponed twice due to Covid-19 and therefore carried out in June 2022. The assessment was carried out by an international peer review committee, using the Strategy Evaluation Protocol 2021-2027. The chair of the peer review committee was Prof.Dr.Ir. C.J. (Hans) van Duijn (Eindhoven University of Technology). 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 committee for their work and for delivering a valuable assessment report. On the basis of the assessment report, additional information and the fruitful conversations during the on-campus site visit, the committee has provided comprehensive insights and recommendations that the departments can use to their advantage.

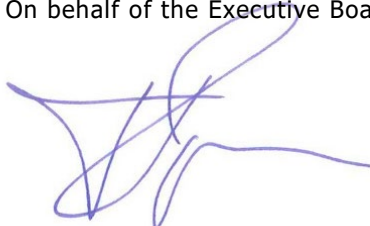
The Executive Board is pleased that the committee considers the Aerospace departments at TU Delft as one of the best in the field. The Executive Board appreciates the assessment of the committee regarding strong leadership, excellent researchers and diversity within the faculty. However, it also takes note of the committees advise to develop a more focused long-term strategy and expects the faculty as well as the specific departments to take this to heart. The role of young scientists is very important in this process. It is advised to pay additional attention to the SpE department and its connection to the overall strategy.

In its report, the committee touches upon a number of subjects that can be improved or require attention. The committee recommends all departments to critically consider their international position, to improve their data management and ensure FAIR data and to enhance the use of management data. Additionally specific recommendations regarding the mentoring of PhD's are valid for all departments.

On a departmental level, the committee recommends the ASM department to work on a more balanced ratio of assistant and associate professors. The committee recommends the FPT department to initiate and formalise department wide meetings on strategic planning and collaboration. The C&O department is recommended to take a leading role in becoming a world leading data hub for its field and SpE is advised to critically reflect on its position within the faculty and to think bigger.

The Executive Board recognizes these remarks and would like to see the faculty and department recommendations being addressed. The Executive Board will further discuss the recommendations, as well as the observations and remarks concerning the specific departments, with the management of the departments as well as the Faculty.

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



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