



Pavel Bělobrádek
Deputy Prime Minister for Science, Research and Innovation

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Letter of Support


As Deputy Prime Minister for the Science, Research and Innovation of the Czech Republic and Chairman of the Research, Development and Innovation Council I declare my strong support for the joint application of Institute of Molecular Genetics (IMG) in Prague and Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics (MPI-CBG) in Dresden in response to HORIZON 2020 WIDESPREAD-04-2017 Teaming for Excellence funding call.

Your proposal to establish “Advanced Research Incubator in Biosciences” (ARIB) with emphasis on excellent science and the support of junior research groups has strong potential to substantially transform scientific landscape in the Czech Republic. Early career researchers at ARIB will tackle biomedical research problems through a unique interdisciplinary approach combining molecular biology, chemistry and model organism biology to identify and test new therapeutic targets. Its research agenda is therefore well aligned with the Smart Specialization Strategy of Czech Republic and in particular the Central Bohemian region including Prague, where the project will be situated. I am particularly delighted to learn that the project will further utilize the EU funded large research infrastructure, the project BIOCEV, recently completed in Vestec just outside of Prague. Your plan to exploit the diversity of fundamental and translation research

In and around Prague to create a complete pipeline from understanding biological processes to practical therapeutic exploitation, will likely help the region to become internationally recognized hub of biotechnology and biomedicine, will lead to creation of jobs and contribute to further economic growth of the region.

I note that the project will be primarily realized and supported by the Czech Academy of Sciences that will establish a partnership with the internationally renowned Max Planck Society. The geographic proximity of the main partner, the outstanding Max Planck Institute in Dresden, will be an important factor to create a real and lasting collaboration. I have discussed the ARIB project, on several occasions, with Saxonian ministerin of science, Eva-Maria Stange, who informed me about the transformational influence MPI-CBG has had on science in Dresden. I am looking forward to see this effect play out also in Prague.

The Czech government will support the project initially through the Teaming II funding call from the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports that will match the EU contribution. In the long run, we are planning to establish a dedicated Ministry of Science and hope this will become a reality by the time the project takes off. I am convinced that support of international research partnerships, such as your ARIB project, will be high on the agenda of the ministry.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script that is difficult to decipher. The signature appears to be a single name or set of initials.