



FAIR/GSI · Planckstraße 1 · 64291 Darmstadt · Germany

To whom it may concern

Dear colleagues,

Thank you very much for providing us with the document on the KHuK recommendations in relation to the ErUm-Pro call for 2024-2027.

We agree with the high relevance of the scientific questions and think that FAIR will play a pivotal role to address most of those. Therefore, we fully support the recommendations outlined in the document. In particular, we are very happy to see that the committee recommends to support the German university groups participating in the FAIR experiments. The outlined strategy in the document is coherent and complies with the plan of the GSI/FAIR Management to progressively start FAIR operation at the end of 2027, in line with what is laid out in Figure 2 of the document. Only with adequate financial support of those university groups, it can be ensured that the experimental setups can be completed in time for the start of FAIR operation. This is essential for an efficient exploitation of the scientific potential of FAIR, as the groups have developed essential detectors and instrumentation for those experiments, construction of which has to be completed. After completion of the construction, they have to be set up and commissioned before experiments can start, so the coming years will be crucial to their success. In addition, the groups with their expertise are required for the operation and data analysis during the experimental campaigns. This also concerns experiments already set up in FAIR Phase-0, which will continue to operate continuously through the coming years, providing essential training for students and young scientists and vital material for their dissertations.

It has to be emphasised that the GSI/FAIR Management is committed to the goal of providing "First Science +" by end of 2028, i.e., operation of the current facilities augmented with the High-Energy Branch (HEB) of the Super-FRS and the CBM branch and to maximise the science output already in this configuration. This is dependent on the timely provision of funds by the FAIR shareholders, which have decided to fund the time-critical components for the CBM branch already now. Given the positive statements by the shareholders in the FAIR Council, and the concrete

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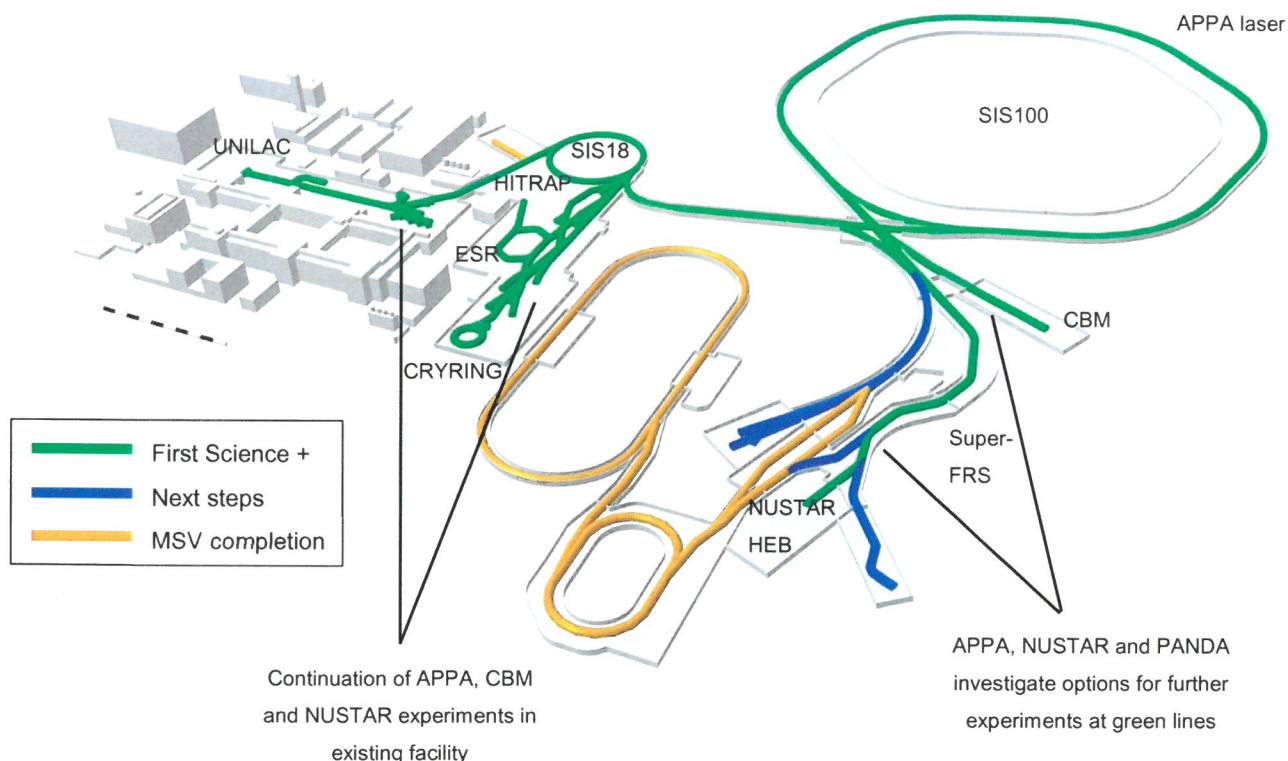
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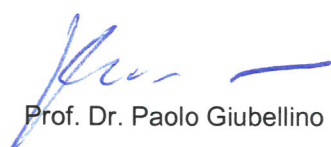
commitment of funds which is progressively coming, the Management is convinced that this goal can be achieved. The Management's vision of FAIR in 2028 is illustrated by green lines in the figure below.



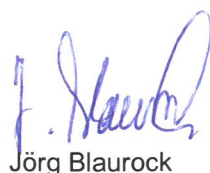
The Management is confident that the next steps (blue) will be addressed in the near future and the FAIR MSV will be completed as the FAIR shareholders have reiterated unanimously in March 2023 that this remains the FAIR goal. The light-grey milestones in the timeline assume further funding until 2026 and an alternative CR layout as stated in the document.

In summary, we concur with the recommendations by KHuK and hope that the scientific assessment can confirm our view, such that FAIR will be able to pursue a successful scientific programme. This will – in turn – be highly beneficial for the scientific reputation of those groups and Germany as a whole.

Sincerely yours,



Prof. Dr. Paolo Giubellino



Jörg Blaurock