



**Letter of support**  
**for the participation of**  
**Research teams of the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology on**  
**the Future and Emerging Technologies Flagship Initiatives (FET Flagships)**  
**of the EU**

1. The Swiss Federal Council has stated both in its legislative programme for 2012–2015 and in its annual objectives for 2012 that it gives considerable importance to Swiss participation in Future and Emerging Technologies Flagship Initiatives (FET Flagships) and that it intends to create the best possible conditions for Swiss partners to take part in these initiatives.
2. The Swiss Federal Council favours FET Flagship Projects that are either entirely coordinated in Switzerland or whose research is coordinated in Switzerland. As the three relevant FET Flagship Projects (FuturICT, Guardian Angels & Human Brain Project) are all part of the ETH Domain, the Federal Council Dispatch on Education, Research and Innovation (ERI Dispatch) for 2013-2016 mandates the ETH Domain to enable Swiss participation in FET Flagships. On 22 February, the Swiss Federal Council allocated to the ETH Domain a financial envelope of CHF 9'481 million for the period 2013-16, subject to parliamentary approval. This budget is to cover all the ETH Domain's activities (education and research). The use of the funds is being defined in a performance mandate, also subject to parliamentary approval. The performance mandate foresees co-funding for successful Swiss FET Flagship Projects. The budget for the next funding period (2017-2020) will be allocated in 2016.
3. The ETH Domain consists of the two Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich and Lausanne and four research institutes. The ETH Board's core tasks include strategic planning for the ETH Domain, long-term financial and investment planning, the allocation of funds approved by the Federal Assembly to the two Federal Institutes of Technology and the four research institutes, the terms of reference for the budgets, as well as the preparation of the consolidated budget and the consolidated accounts of the ETH Domain.
4. On the basis of the terms of reference provided by the performance mandate and the budget appropriation as set out in the ERI Dispatch, the ETH Board – following parliamentary approval – concludes four-year target agreements with the two Federal Institutes of Technology and the research institutes and allocates federal resources, basing its decisions, in particular, on the yearly budget requests submitted by the two Federal Institutes of Technology and the research institutes. The objective is to fully comply with the performance mandate established between the federal government and the ETH Board.
5. In view of the FET selection process, the ETH Board will discuss and decide the concrete co-funding for the ramp-up phase after the successful FET Flagships have been communicated

and detailed funding requests are available. The dedicated co-funding from the ETH Board will be in addition to foreseen or existing and approved co-funding (*in-kind, in-infrastructure, or in-cash*) from the two Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich and Lausanne, from existing National Research Programmes (i.e. National Centres of Competence in Research) or from third parties.

6. The Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich and Lausanne will submit separate letters of support. These letters will contain detailed information on the funding sources implied.
7. The State Secretariat for Education and Research and the ETH Board will collaborate closely in order to support the success and the positive development of the FET Flagship Projects coordinated or whose research is coordinated in Switzerland.

State Secretariat for Education and Research



Dr. Mauro Dell'Ambrogio  
State Secretary

ETH Board



Dr. Fritz Schiesser  
President