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Chemical and
Biological
Engineering
PRINCETON
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To: Abo Akademi University and
the Academy of Finland

Dear Members of Assessment Committee,

The Optimization and Systems Engineering (OSE) research group at Åbo Akademi University is applying for a second period as an Internal Center of Excellence at the University. The (OSE) Group focuses on theoretical advances in applied mathematics and systems engineering, and is a leading research group in this field not only nationally but also one of the leading groups in this research field in Europe and worldwide.

The (OSE) research group is interdisciplinary, connecting *Mathematics and Statistics* from the Department of Natural Sciences, as well as *Process Design and Systems Engineering* and *Thermal and Flow Engineering* at the Department of Chemical Engineering within Åbo Akademi University. The chairman of the group is Professor Tapio Westerlund from the Department of Chemical Engineering.

A very successful research track has been on the development of generic methods for mixed-integer nonlinear optimization, including several successful applications in complex engineering design and operation.

The group has received outstanding marks for its research, as can be found on the evaluations available on the web pages www.abo.fi/ose, and has excellent possibilities to continue as an strong internal Center of Excellence for the period 2015-18, as well as being an excellent contender for a national Center of Excellence from the Academy of Finland, whenever such a call will be opened.

In sum, the exceptional quality of research, the established international recognition, and the excellent proposed work make me to state enthusiastically my strongest possible support for its continuation as both an internal Center of Excellence and a national one from the Academy of Finland.

Sincerely Yours,

Floudas Chris

Christodoulos A. Floudas
Stephen C. Macaleer '63 Professor in Engineering and Applied Science,
Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering