

Rankings for KNOW competition:
Prepared by Tom Lubensky 5/16/2012

Application 17 – Dept. of Physics, Warsaw University (but a little large)

Application 10 – Cracow University, BUT much too large. I would eliminate the proton therapy program

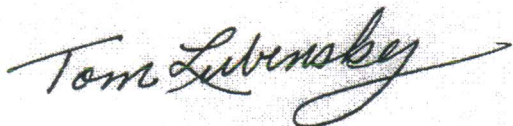
Applications 9 – CAMK – well focused, money would have a big impact

Application 12 – Warsaw Platform

Application 13 – Poznan – clearly the weakest

I based these rankings mostly on my necessarily superficial assessment of the quality of the faculty and past research and, where possible on, the prospects for future impact. I also folded in the quality and clarity of the “propose programme” section of the proposals. Here, I felt that Application 17 was the best. If I were running the show with the information we have, I would have a closer look at Application 10 and reduce the number of participating groups by half. In the end, I do not think any of the applicants articulated a vision of the future that would change what they are doing in any significant way or establish real, new, and interdisciplinary interactions. The only possible exception is the CAMK proposal. It was focused enough on good projects that I do think the new money could have real impact on its program. I understand, however, that astronomy was not supposed to be included in this round of applications.

I do not have particularly strong feelings about my rankings, and someone with greater knowledge could easily change my opinion.



Rankings for KNOW competition:
Prepared by Pietro Ubertini 18/05/2012

As requested follows my ranking for the KNOW applicants, at the best of my rules understanding.

All the caveat already discussed during the ranking and selection process discussed with the other referees are clearly present.

Therefore, my ranking is to be considered as a strong suggestion rather than a must.

Application 10 – Cracow University and Applications 9 – CAMK –

-Ex-quo: Cracow University and CAMK

Note: Cracow is already a big consortium and the extra grant will not have a drastic impact (as far as I can see). CAMK is also internationally very strong and the grant can boost their space activity with benefit for the R&D and cutting edge technology development. Anyway, this is an astrophysics based proposal, well focussed on realistic projects.

Application 17 – Dept. of Physics, Warsaw University

Application 12 – Warsaw Platform

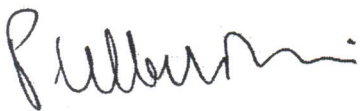
-Note: It looks to me is a minus the fact that these two establishments were not able to join together to eventually become of the strongest competitor (but I may be wrong not having enough resolution looking only at the paper)

Application 13 – Poznan –

-This is clearly the weakest proposal.

For the final ranking decision I will take into the other referees common assesment, in view of the real difficulty I have to to properly assess the 'best' KNOW consortium and provide an 'absolute' selection, that in my view have to be taken considering the best option for science research in Poland.

Prof. Pietro Ubertini



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IV. My conclusions.

IN spite of the vague formulations of the rules I consider this to be the physics contest, therefor I am comparing the width and depth of the physics subjects assuming astronomy and cosmic research are just branches of physical sciences. This, unfortunately pushes the application of Torun consortium down the list immediately. Had they include FAMO that would be a different story. For years high energy and elementary particle physics was dominating in polish physics. This I believe had hindered development of broadly understood biophysics, materials sciences, with exclusion of the solid state physics—mainly semiconductors, which managed to achieve considerable international successes on its own. High energy physics, as you can see from the documents, was, for obvious reasons essentially part of the CERN, DESY and similar international endeavors. Looking into the documents I convinced myself that the best balance has been achieved here in three institutions: Cracow and Warsaw Consortiums and the Warsaw University. The independently applying Poznań University is weaker in all respects. The Warsaw University application is very strong, however it is this application which contains several dubious entries of deceased scientists, and also is lacking the necessary in my view scope of existing and future leadership in the broader environment of Warsaw physics. Therefore I am left with two candidates: The Cracow and Warsaw Consortiums. Both of them have necessary scope (including several branches of physical sciences, quality of education-important that both contain education on more technical side, both include Technical Universities in Cracow AGH and in Warsaw Technical University, both have strong industrial leg. Cracow consortium has been operating, if not formally than factual, much earlier than the KNOW was even mentioned by the Ministry. It is a huge organization including our oldest University, AGH, very good research institute of the Polish Academy of sciences (Niewodniczanski Institute) pretty good physical chemistry lab (Haber Institute) etc. On the other hand it is just too much it is like those soccer world star teams assembled for jubilee game: Manchester United against Rest of the World. Warsaw Platform is smaller, more technically oriented and run with more practical aims, though in narrower field. The best solutions will be attempt to persuade the Ministry to open two KNOWS one in Cracow and one in Warsaw. That would also prevent a bloody war between those two scientific societies.

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I. Introduction.

[REDACTED]

II. Why KNOW.

[REDACTED]

III. The KNOW rules

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VISVA-BHARATI
(Established by the Parliament of India under
Visva-Bharati Act XXIX of 1951)
Vide Notification No. : 40-5/50 G.3 Dt. 14 May, 1951)

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VCN-1

31.07.2012



दिनांक/Date: _____

सं./No. _____
Prof. dr Barbara Kudrycka
Minister of Science and Higher Education,
Republic of Poland

Dear Prof. dr Barbara Kudrycka,

In response to your mail I am forwarding the following recommendations which I intimated to you earlier. These recommendations have been arrived at unanimously in consultation with the panel of three experts including me in the Jury.

my suggested ranking of the institutions participating in the KNOW contest 2012.

• Position No.1 Exequo :

Applications No. 10: "Matter—Energy—Future"
and
Application No.17: Department of Physics of the University of Warsaw.

• Position No. 2:

Application No.12. "Warsaw Platform"

• Position No.3. Application No.9: "Astro Physics Group"

• Position No.4

Application No.13: Faculty of Physics of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

It turns out that we have been able to reach unanimous decision to submit this list as the final result of our expert group deliberations.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely

(Prof. Sushanta Dattagupta)
Vice-Chancellor
Visva-Bharati

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