**Statement of Intent for a**

**Dual Doctorate Degree Program**

Agreement between:

**POLITECNICO DI MILANO (POLIMI)**

**Piazza Leonardo da Vinci 32**

**20133 Milano, Italy**

 **(Subsequently referred to as “POLIMI”)**

represented by the President **Prof. Donatella Sciuto**

and

**The Technical University of Braunschweig**

**(Subsequently referred to as “TU Braunschweig”)**

Universitätsplatz 2, 38106 Braunschweig, Germany

represented by the President Prof. Angela ITTEL

hereinafter referred to as "the Parties".

In the awareness of the ever-increasing importance of international collaboration, particularly in the training of our young academics, and through the trust we have gained over the past years in our long, close and successful cooperation, the Politecnico di Milano and the Technische Universität Braunschweig announce their intention to develop a framework to serve as the cornerstone for a shared doctoral program.

Based on our positive experience in the implementation of common degrees within our partnership, we are convinced a dual-doctorate degree program is the appropriate advancement our cooperation. The following proposal is intended to serve as a framework for the formulation of a future agreement.

**§1 Objective**

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| A dual doctorate degree program is understood to be one program towards a doctorate degree with shared advisory roles and * In which the dissertation is supervised by two advisors, one at each institution,
* In which those who complete this program will earn a single degree recognized by both institutions
* which is subject to the laws of both countries, so for:
* Politecnico di Milano : Ministerial Decree no. 45 of 08.02.2013; Regulations on the Doctoral Research Program of the Politecnico di Milano
* and for Germany: Recommendations of the HRK concerning transnational doctorate programs from October 2005.
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| **§2 Acceptance**The acceptance into the doctorate programs is administered individually and independently by selection committees at each institution, in consensus with the regulations of the institution and after consultation with the two affected scientific advisors. (art.7)Each institution provides information to its partner about the acceptance process. |
| **§3 Language**The candidate should have a good command of the language of instruction at the home and host institution, or at least of one of each, and English. If latter case the candidate is required to acquire a minimal fluency in the lacking language in a reasonable amount of time. To this end, both institutions commit to give the candidate access to relevant language courses. |
| **§4 Duration of doctoral program**The duration of the doctoral program is determined by the requirements of the respective departments/schools, but is a minimum of three years from the date of the program start. In the case of exceptional, outstanding or distinctly motivated candidates, this may, however, be shorter or longer. In the event the specified objectives of a dual doctorate degree program are not fulfilled in the determined time-frame, the length of dual program can be extended by mutual consent of the both institutions. |
| **§5 Residence**The research and related coursework will be completed at both institutions in alternating periods. The periods of time spent in both institutions should be of similar length. Visits to or residences at institutions other than the host institutions can be allowed in the event these are beneficial to the doctoral process.The organization of these visits or residencies will be arranged mutually by the scientific advisors (art. 7).Under special circumstances, agreed by the two Institutions, a minimum period of one year at each Institution is admissible, possibly including visits to or residences at institutions other than the host institutions. |
| **§6Matriculation and Fees**The candidate must be matriculated at both institutions throughout the dual doctorate degree program. However, matriculation fees or tuition are to be paid by the candidate only at his or her home institution. Matriculation fees can be waived by both Institutions in special circumstances, to be agreed for each candidate. The host institution may charge administrative fees, which cannot be waived. |
| **§7 Advisors**Each institution will name a professor or a member of the institution, eligible to serve as doctoral advisor, to be the candidate’s doctoral advisor. The candidate will turn to the advisor for counseling and support during his or her residency at each respective institution. Both advisors will mutually take on the task as scientific advisors and provide the candidate and are responsible for his or her doctoral preparation and research activities. The candidate will receive direct advice and assistance from the advisor in the institution where he or she is in residence. |
| **§8 Attendance of classes and lectures**During the doctoral program’s duration, the candidate will dedicate himself or herself primarily to research activities and the preparation of the dissertation. The attendance of classes or lectures, at the appropriate level, for which credit points are earned, may be required, according to the rules of the relevant department/school or doctoral seminar. |
| **§9Progress report/intermediate exam**Each institution will individually assess the progress of the candidate, either yearly, or in previously agreed-upon intervals, and report the result of this assessment to the other institution. |
| **§10 Defence**Upon successful completion of the dual doctorate degree program and the fulfillment of all the concomitant requirements (Credits earned and successful review of the dissertation by the doctoral committee), and after the dissertational defense (according to discipline) the candidate will receive the title ofDr.-Ing./Dr. rer.nat./Dr. Phil/Dr. Rer.pol. from the Technische Universität Braunschweig and title of Dottore di Ricerca (Dr. Phil) from Politecnico di Milano. The candidate may only use one title at a time. The use of both titles at once is not permitted.The candidate may, in compliance with the plan of study agreed to by both advisors, attend classes and take the corresponding exams.The candidate must complete all requirements and expectations of the two doctoral programs, such as the acceptance of course credits, etc.The dissertation, after prior agreement by the doctoral seminar, will be completed in English, and will contain two further summaries in the languages of the two institutions.The Institution where the final defense will take place or any third party in accordance with agreement concluded by the Institution with this third party is responsible for travelling and accommodation expenses for the members of the evaluation committee. The expenses for travelling and accommodation of the two supervisors are responsibility of the funds of each supervisor. |
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| **§11 Examination Board**The committee for the dissertational defense is, in addition to the advisors, comprised of at least 3 professors, all experts in the field of the dissertation: one professor from, or indicated by, each of the partner institutions and a third from another institution other than the two partners. The dissertation committee includes two referees from a third institution.The commission will be nominated by both institutions. The defense of the dissertation will take place at the home institution of the candidate, and in the language of either one of the two institutions, or in English, according to the prior agreement between the commission and the doctoral candidate. |
| **§12 IP Rights**The legal rights to the contents of the dissertation and its publication, the utilization and protection of the results of the research therein lie under the purview of both institutions.In the event it is necessary, special contracts for the protection of intellectual property will be concluded.  |
| **§13 Finances**It will be attempted to financially support the candidate through a scholarship from one or the other of the two institutions, or from a third-party source.The candidate is responsible for his or her personal expenses for travel, housing and cost of living. Each institution will provide the candidate with access to resources, including laboratories that are generally available to doctorate students at the institution.  |
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| **§13 Health insurances**The doctoral candidate is responsible for his or her own health insurance. Additionally, he or she agrees to provide for appropriate liability insurance in the host country. Each institution shall maintain policies of insurance and safety for staff and students within the law of its own country. |
| **§14 Applicable law and jurisdiction**1) In the event of any disputes in connection with or arising from this Agreement, the parties involved shall attempt to reach an amicable settlement. If resolution cannot be found within 60 days, the dispute will be referred to and finally resolved by the court of the competent jurisdictions at the seat of the defendant. (2) This agreement will be governed by the laws of the defendant. |
| **§15 Duration and Term of this agreement**The preceding agreement will be valid for a period of five years proceeding from the date of signing, and will automatically renew itself if neither party wishes to terminate the agreement. Any changes from one or the other party will be added as a signed addendum. The agreement can be terminated at any time after the first six months by giving six months’ prior written notice to the other. |
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**For the TU Braunschweig** **For the Politecnico di Milano**

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**Angela ITTEL**  **Prof. Donatella Sciuto**

President of the Technical University The Rector of Politecnico di Milano

of Braunschweig