



# The Institute of Information Theory and Automation of the Czech Academy of Sciences

Pod Vodárenskou věží 4, 182 00 Praha 8, Czech Republic

## Statement from the Director on the Final Report of the ÚTIA CAS

The Final Report contains certain misinterpretations of the information provided and/or material submitted. We list them below together with our suggestion for correcting them.

### Part A: Evaluation of the institute

#### Weaknesses:

**Current text:** The arrangements for PhD students are not ideal in terms of the legal position in the Czech Republic and the significant failure rate in PhD study is concerning.

**Our response:** In our opinion, the above statement does not reflect the actual situation. Although the arrangements for PhD students are not ideal in terms of the legal position in the Czech Republic, the failure rate in PhD study in UTIA (37%) is significantly lower than the failure rate at the major Czech universities. Moreover, each student is formally affiliated with the respective university and UTIA only provides the supervision and professional training. So, many factors resulting in a failure are beyond our control.

### D3.3

**Current text:** The documentation notes a significant failure rate of PhD students

**Our response:** Our opinion is on the contrary: the documentation acknowledges a significant success rate of our PhD students.

### D2.6

**Current text:** However, up to now UTIA lacks a scientific advisory board.

**Our response:** The reason of not establishing such board is that the Czech legal frameworks, in particular the Public Research Institution Law and the Statutes of the Academy, do not provide for a similar arrangement. Establishing another body with legally unclear competences would probably lead to a conflict of competences with the two existing boards and to the overlap of the agenda. As soon as the law is amended, ÚTIA is ready to establish an international advisory board.

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## **Comments and recommendations**

**Current text:** The Institute works in a number of areas such as medical imaging, forensics and security, where ethical considerations are important. The Commission was not presented with evidence that these issues are fully addressed. There should be an ethical committee to oversee this area, and if one does not exist, the Institute should consider setting one up.

**Our response:** The Institute is well aware of this aspect and pays special attention to ethical issues. The role of an ethical committee is played by the Board of the Institute. For a mid-size institute like UTIA, it does not make much sense to establish a separate ethical committee.

Prague, June 30, 2021