

IFAST

Innovation Fostering in Accelerator Science and Technology

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MILESTONE REPORT

Industry Advisory Board Launch

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ABSTRACT

The IFAST Industry Advisory Board (IAB) is composed by representatives from European companies operating in the most relevant accelerator industrial sectors. The main goal of the IAB is to advise the project management on matters related to the industrial participation in IFAST.

The launch of the IAB, a responsibility of WP3, consists in completing the procedure for the appointment of the members of the Board and in scheduling the first IAB meeting, and it was accomplished with the official invitation letters sent out on October 19, 2021 and with the announcement of the first meeting circulated to the members on the following day. In the IFAST proposal the launch of the IAB was defined as a milestone to be achieved by the end of October 2021.

IFAST Consortium, 2021

For more information on IFAST, its partners and contributors please see <https://ifast-project.eu/>

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Delivery Slip

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1. Introduction

1.1 THE I.FAST IAB

The Industry Advisory Board (IAB) is an external consultative group supporting the I.FAST management. The Board serves a critical role in linking the strategic goals and activities of I.FAST with the interests of the European companies that are actively involved in the development of Accelerators Science and Technology. It is composed of industry representatives, who share the common goal of promoting and advancing the mission of the I.FAST project.

The board is expected to provide feedback on key aspects related of the industrial involvement in I.FAST, like:

- promoting co-innovation of advanced technologies with industry, with the objectives of early industry involvement in critical R&D, better integrating cost and production factors into the development process, and focusing the development process towards marketable products;
- linking researchers with the innovation needs of industry and society, and identifying and promoting ideas and technologies with potential market applications;
- fostering the interaction between academia and industry through the organization of industrial events on I.FAST technologies with potential industrial applications;
- removing the obstacles, including communication bottlenecks, which limit the effectiveness of industrial collaboration with Research and Technology Infrastructures;
- optimizing the impact of industrial participation in improving the competitiveness of European SMEs.

Furthermore, the IAB will be asked to participate with a few of its members in the selection committees that will be set up to examine the proposals submitted for the industrial Training Programme (WP2) and the Innovation Fund (WP4). It will also act as a consultative body of the AMICI Technology Infrastructure cooperation initiative (WP13).

1.2 IAB MODUS OPERANDI

The IAB is led by a Chair and assisted by the WP3 team in organizing and carrying out its activities. The members, including the chairperson, are appointed by invitation only and are expected to serve for the entire project lifetime. It is assumed that the Board is assumed meets at least once a year, if possible during the I.FAST annual meetings.

2. Procedure

2.1 CRITERIA ADOPTED FOR THE CONSTITUTION OF THE IAB

The size and the composition of the Board was discussed in the first meetings of the WP3 group, organized from March 2021, and a proposal on how to setup the IAB was presented at the IFAST kick-off meeting on May 4, based on the following lines:

1. It was considered very important that the composition of the IAB could guarantee a broad representation of European industry, both across countries, industrial sectors and company size classifications. This requirement pushed in the direction of enlarging the number of IAB members with respect to previous projects such as ARIES, and it was decided that a board of around ten members would be adequate and manageable. For the same reason, it also appeared opportune to give higher priority in selecting the members to representatives of industry rather than of those coming from Big Science national industry associations, European ILOs and TT organizations, as originally envisaged in the IFAST proposal.
2. As the IAB was expected to advice the IFAST management on industry-related aspects of the project activities, it was considered appropriate not to accept nominations of representatives of companies already involved in IFAST, either as beneficiaries or as associated partners.
3. Given the role of the Chair of the IAB, who is expected to play a crucial role as the main interface between the IAB and the IFAST project management, it was also deemed beneficial to look for a distinguished colleague with direct experience in industry as well as in Research Institutions, who had been involved in industry-academia collaborations and with demonstrated managerial skills. In addition, it was also considered appropriate to look for possible female candidates first.
4. Since IAB membership is by invitation only, it was also decided to solicit nominations for IAB member candidates and chairperson from WP3 collaborators, IFAST participants and the group of CERN Industry Liaison Officers. From the slate of nominees, the WP3 group was then to produce a proposed list of members to be endorsed by IFAST.

2.2 SELECTION OF IAB MEMBERS

In May 2021, nominations were collected and then, from the nearly 30 candidates from 12 countries proposed, a prioritized short-list was discussed and approved by the WP3 group on May 28. Informally the candidates were then contacted and almost all of them confirmed their willingness to be part of the IAB. On June 25, the IAB preliminary composition was presented and discussed in the IFAST SC, while the search for the Chair of the IAB was still ongoing. The SC endorsed the list of members and suggested to include an additional member to represent the laser industry involved in accelerator developments.

The search for such a member and for the chairperson of the board was successfully completed in September 2021 and the final list, represented in following table, communicated and approved by the SC.

Name	Role	Company	Country
Špela Stres	Chair	Center for Technology Transfer and Innovation (CTT)	Slovenia
Charles Mangeot	Member	CTS	Denmark
Francesco Fantini	Member	Fantini	Italy
François Sylla	Member	SourceLAB - Laser Plasma Technologies	France
Jean-Luc Lancelot	Member	Sigmaphi	France
Josef Troxler	Member	Ampegon Power Electronics AG	Switzerland
Melhem Ziad	Member	Oxford Instruments	UK
Michael Peiniger	Member	Research-Instruments	Germany
Miguel Angel Carrera	Member	AVS - Added Value Solutions	Spain
Pavel Hedbavny	Member	Vakuum Praha	Czech
Rok Hrovatin	Member	Cosylab	Slovenia
Ronald Dekker	Member	Demaco	Netherlands

It was also deemed appropriate to obtain the endorsement of the IFAST Governing Board (GB) that was given during the first GB meeting held on October 5.

2.3 OFFICIAL CONSTITUTION OF THE IAB

The official letters of invitation to participate in the IAB were sent to all the IAB members on Oct. 19, 2021. The original plan was to convene the IAB during the 1st IFAST Annual meeting, but the latter had to be delayed to May 3, 2022, due to Covid-related travel restrictions. Hence, the first meeting of the IAB, dedicated to welcoming the participants, introducing the IAB mission, presenting the IFAST work program and organizing the first activities was scheduled, in agreement with the IAB Chair, for Nov. 23 at 2PM, and the announcement was circulated to the IAB on Oct. 20, 2021