Science Foundation Ireland

Three Park Place

Hatch Street Upper

Dublin 2 Date

**Re: Letter of Support for UCD Lead Applicant: [Title and full name] [and UCD Co-Applicant: Title and full name (if UCD lead applicable)] for the SFI-Defence Organisation Innovation Challenge 2024**

Dear Science Foundation Ireland,

On behalf of UCD, I wish to confirm our full support for submission of this proposal [*proposal name*] ledby [Title and full name], to the SFI-Defence Organisation Challenge 2024.The proposed research programme meets a core strategic objective of the UCD Rising to the Future Strategy 2020-2024 which is to *increase the quality, quantity and impact of our research, scholarship and innovation* and isin full alignment with our strategic theme(s)*:* [*select relevant theme/s: Creating a Sustainable Global Society, Transforming through Digital Technology, Building a Healthy World, Empowering Humanity and provide a line on how your research aligns with this theme].*

[Please provide a brief description of the project, highlighting how it is novel, disruptive and transforming. What challenge will it address?] The impact of this research will be considerable. [1-2 lines in relation to what you see the impact of the research being – think about the end result – for example: how will society change due to this research, particularly if you are successful in reaching the final deployment phase of this award?]

[A brief discussion of the team and the backgrounds of the members, referring to its interdisciplinary nature and how each skillset will complement to the project and contribute to its completion. Include knowledge, practice and methodology contribution of team members where relevant and refer to the qualification and experience of members to make these contributions. Also include reference of the DefOrg Liaison and how they will contribute to the team/solution].

[Outline here the contract situation of the Lead and Co Applicant here, including their school and PhD year. Will any team member be transferring from another active SFI research grant? If so we need a description of how they will be replaced on the original award or how their time commitments will be managed.]

As Host Institution for <*proposal title>*, UCD will afford full access to the required research infrastructure, along with research management services and other supports as detailed below:

**Access to Advanced Research Infrastructure: <**Detail here the equipment, laboratory, computing, animal or other facilities available, including specifications where appropriate and access plans. Identify if there is technical support available to operate this equipment. Also detail the office and local administrative supports (research managers etc) available to you. Confirm that you will have and independent office and research space available to you for which you will be fully responsible for at least the duration of the funding>.

**Research Management Services and Other Supports:** UCD has a very extensive portfolio of large-scale national and international research programmes ([www.ucd.ie/research/](http://www.ucd.ie/research/)). The proposed research team will be fully supported by the wider administrative infrastructure at UCD. UCD Research provides research supports for funded research activity at UCD. UCD’s post-award Research Finance Office (RFO) provides support for financial administration at all stages of university research projects and will assist researchers in the preparation of cost statements/statements of expenditure. Research IT Services provide a range of services designed to support and facilitate researchers in their use of IT as an enabler for their research activities. The UCD Human Resources (HR) Office will fully assist with all HR management, including orientation and provision of other practical assistance for incoming researchers. In addition, Post-Doctoral Fellows will be supported by the UCD Research Careers Framework (RCF), which establishes a structured and supportive skills and early career development model for Post-Doctoral Fellows at UCD. PhD students will participate in UCD’s structured doctoral programmes*.*

The UCD Animal Research Ethics Committee (AREC) and Humanities and Science Human Research Ethics Committees (HRECs) conduct ethical reviews using an internationally recognised approvals system. The Research Ethics Committee (REC) oversees and advises on policy regarding the work carried out by these three main sub-committees. UCD is committed to the promotion of the highest standards of Research Integrity, provides education and training to prevent breaches of Research Integrity, and promotes a collaborative and collegiate research culture throughout the institution. UCD’s Gender Equality Action Plan, which is linked to the university’s Athena SWAN Bronze Institutional Award, seeks to deliver changes in related policies and procedures along with everyday behaviours and attitudes. The university stresses the exploitation of research findings through academic-industry engagement and licensing, with management of intellectual property and commercialisation available through the technology transfer office, NovaUCD.

**Management of Conflict of Interest:** UCD researchers must comply with UCD’s published Policy on Conflict of Interest - *UCD is committed to the promotion of an environment which maintains the highest standards of integrity. It is the policy of UCD that all persons engaged in UCD activity have the obligation to manage or avoid ethical, legal, financial or other conflicts of interest and to ensure that their activities and interest do not conflict with their obligations to the University or its welfare.*

In summary, it is without hesitation that I support this application led by [Title and full name], to the SFI-Defence Organisation Innovation Challenge 2024.

Yours sincerely,

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**Professor Kate Robson Brown**

**Vice President for Research, Innovation and Impact**