Establishing the European Geological Surveys Research Area to deliver a Geological Service for Europe

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REPORT ON CALL STAGE TWO

Authors and affiliation:
Lisbeth Flindt Jørgensen
[GEUS]

E-mail of lead author:
lfj@geus.dk

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The GeoERA joint call has two stages: Stage One Call for Project Ideas, and Stage Two Call for Project Proposals. This document describes the process from the launch of Stage Two Call for Project Proposals, the evaluation process, and the selection of proposals for funding. Besides from an overview with conclusions, this document comprises:

- A report describing the procedure when selecting experts
- A report on the review process
- A report on the Independent Expert Panel Meeting
- The final and approved ranking list
- The minutes of the 4th General Assembly

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1 GEOERA STAGE TWO CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The GeoERA Stage Two Call for Projects was open from October 17th 2017 until January 12th 2018. The call was opened and announced at a Launch Event in The Hague, the Netherlands October 17-18th 2017 where GeoERA partners were introduced to the call documents and procedures. This is reported in D5.5 *Report on partner and stakeholder workshops (2),* October 2017.

The call was further announced at the GeoERA webpage and also communicated to all GeoERA partners by email. The call was only open for members of the GeoERA consortium and should reflect the call text declared in Joint Call Document No. 9 – Call Announcement and Scientific Scope. Template and guidance documents related to the call could be downloaded from the GeoERA call webpage, and submission was handled electronically, see below

To avoid conflict of interest and ensure transparency and independency, The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) was in charge of the procedures from receiving proposals, eligibility check, selecting experts (see Annex A: *Status Report: Proposals and Technical Expert Search*), for the initial technical review (see Annex B: *Status Report: Review reports and rebuttal letters*), and for the final Independent Expert Panel Evaluation Meeting at March 21st 2018 (see Annex C: *Status Report: Independent Expert Panel Meeting*).

By the end of the call, 17 proposals were submitted, see table 1 below.

Table 1: 17 proposals were submitted to the Stage Two Call.

GeoERA Theme	GeoERA Sub-theme	Proposal Title
GeoEnergy	GE1	Geological Analysis and Resource Assessment of selected Hydrocarbon systems - **GARAH**
	GE2	Integrating uncertainty in resource assessments for geothermal prospects in different stages of exploration - **Geo4Sure**
	GE2	Managing Urban Shallow geothermal Energy - **MUSE**
	GE2	**HotLime** –Mapping and Assessment of Geothermal Plays in Deep Carbonate Rocks Cross-domain Implications and Impacts
	GE4	**HIKE**: Hazard and Impact Knowledge for Europe
	GE5	3D geomodeling for Europe - **3DGEO-EU**
	GE6	Cross-border, cross-thematic multiscale framework for combining geological models and data for resource appraisal and policy support - **GeoConnect³d**
Groundwater	GW1	Hydrogeological processes and Geological settings over Europe controlling dissolved geogenic and anthropogenic elements in groundwater of relevance to human health and the status of dependent ecosystems - **HOVER**
	GW2	Tools for Assessment of ClimaTe change ImpacT on Groundwater and Adaptation Strategies - **TACTIC**
	GW3	**RESOUR**ces of groundwater, harmonized at Cross-Border and Pan-European Scale
	GW4	**VoGERA**: Vulnerability of Shallow Groundwater Resources to Deep Sub-surface Energy- Related Activities
Raw Materials	RM1	Mineral Intelligence for Europe - **Mintell4EU**
	RM2	On- and offshore aggregate classification- and mapping inventory system for EURMKB, as input for Spatial Planning - **Aggre-grades**
	RM2	**EuroLithos**: Eruopean Ornamental stone resources
	RM3	Seabed Mineral Deposits in European Seas: Metallogeny and Geological Potential for Strategic and Critical Raw Materials - **MINDeSEA**
	RM4	Forecasting and Assessing Europe's Strategic Raw Materials needs - **FRAME**
Information Platform	IP1	GeoERA Information Platform project – **GIP-P**

2 SCORES AND RANKING LIST

As mentioned, the Independent Expert Panel met on March 21st and scored and ranked the proposals, see table 2 and Annex C.

Table 2. Scores and ranking (within each theme) of the proposals submitted to the GeoERA Stage Two Call

Proposal no.	Acronym	Rank	Criterion I - Excellence	Criterion II - Impact	Criterion III - Implementation	Total score	SRT	Requested budget (€)
GeoE.171.014	GIP-P	1	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	IP1	3,860,804
GeoE.171.013	HOVER	1	5	4.5	5	14.5	GW1	2,999,814
GeoE.171.008	TACTIC	2	4.5	4.5	4.5	13.5	GW2	1,799,979
GeoE.171.004	RESOURces	3	3.5	4	4	11.5	GW3	2,465,654
GeoE.171.015	VoGERA	4	3.5	4	4	11.5	GW4	433,781
GeoE.171.001	MINDeSEA	1	3.5	4	4,5	12	RM3	783,285
GeoE.171.016	Mintell4EU	2	4	3	5	12	RM1	2,859,159
GeoE.171.017	EuroLithos	3	4	3	4	11	RM2	1,100,357
GeoE.171.010	FRAME	4	3.5	3	4	10.5	RM4	3,139,634
GeoE.171.012	AGRRE-GRADES	5	3	3	4.5	10.5	RM2	1,936,616
GeoE.171.006	MUSE	1	4.5	4	4.5	13	GE2	1,313,260
GeoE.171.007	HotLime	2	4	4	4	12	GE2	1,658,728
GeoE.171.011	HIKE	3	4	4	4	12	GE4	1,620,649
GeoE.171.005	3DGEO-EU	4	4	3.5	4	11.5	GE5	3,651,677
GeoE.171.009	GeoConnect³d	5	4	3.5	4	11.5	GE6	1,827,753
GeoE.171.002	GARAH	6	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	GE1	1,060,707
GeoE.171.003	Geo4Sure	7	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	GE2	974,719

3 CONSOLIDATING THE RANKING LIST

After the Independent Expert Panel Meeting, the GeoERA Executive Board met in The Hague on March 22nd to develop recommendation for selection of proposals for funding, see Annex D (*Status Report: Final Ranking List*) and table 3.

After selecting the highest ranked proposals for funding within each theme until the individual available theme budget were exhausted, small amounts of budget was left over in all four themes. This added up to EUR 785,466 which was not enough to fund the highest ranked proposal (GARAH) of those not being recommended for funding within their own themes

However, the Executive Board decided to explore whether the left over budget could be allocated to GARAH and put forward the suggestion to the General Assembly, the Project Officer of the European Commission, and to the Project Consortium to carry out the project with a lower reimbursement rate, resulting in 22% EC contribution instead of the agreed 29,7% that applied to the already recommended proposals.

4 DECISIONS REGARDING GARAH

The General Assembly that met in Vienna on April 13th, approved the final ranking list on proposals recommended for funding, and the suggestion on GARAH. The Project Officer has also agreed that the procedure will be in accordance with EC rules. Finally, the project lead of GARAH has announced that all partners will accept a lower reimbursement rate meaning that GARAH can also be implemented, see table 4.

Table 3. The scores and ranking of the proposals submitted to the GeoERA Stage Two Call, including the total requested budget (in Euro's).

Proposal no.	Acronym	Rank	Criterion I - Excellence	Criterion II - Impact	Criterion III - Implementation	Total score	SRT	Requested budget (€)	Cumulative budget (€)	Left unallocated budget (€)
GeoE.171.014	GIP-P	1	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	IP1	3,860,804	3,860,804	39,196
GeoE.171.013	HOVER	1	5	4.5	5	14.5	GW1	2,999,814	2,999,814	772
GeoE.171.008	TACTIC	2	4.5	4.5	4.5	13.5	GW2	1,799,979	4,799,793	
GeoE.171.004	RESOURces	3	3.5	4	4	11.5	GW3	2,465,654	7,265,447	
GeoE.171.015	VoGERA	4	3.5	4	4	11.5	GW4	433,781	7,699,228	
GeoE.171.001	MINDeSEA	1	3.5	4	4,5	12	RM3	783,285	783,285	517,565
GeoE.171.016	Mintell4EU	2	4	3	5	12	RM1	2,859,159	3,642,444	
GeoE.171.017	EuroLithos	3	4	3	4	11	RM2	1,100,357	4,742,801	
GeoE.171.010	FRAME	4	3.5	3	4	10.5	RM4	3,139,634	7,882,435	
GeoE.171.012	AGRRE-GRADES	5	3	3	4.5	10.5	RM2	1,936,616	9,819,051	
GeoE.171.006	MUSE	1	4.5	4	4.5	13	GE2	1,313,260	1,313,260	227,933
GeoE.171.007	HotLime	2	4	4	4	12	GE2	1,658,728	2,971,988	
GeoE.171.011	HIKE	3	4	4	4	12	GE4	1,620,649	4,592,637	
GeoE.171.005	3DGEO-EU	4	4	3.5	4	11.5	GE5	3,651,677	8,244,314	
GeoE.171.009	GeoConnect^{3}d	5	4	3.5	4	11.5	GE6	1,827,753	10,072,067	
GeoE.171.002	GARAH	6	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	GE1	1,060,707	11,132,774	
GeoE.171.003	Geo4Sure	7	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	GE2	974,719	12,107,493	
								Total unallocated budget		785,466

Table 4: Final list of projects to be carried out – italics: proposals not funded

Proposal no.	Acronym	Rank	Criterion I - Excellence	Criterion II - Impact	Criterion III - Implementation	Total score	SRT	Requested budget (€)	Cumulative budget (€)
GeoE.171.014	GIP-P	1	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	IP1	3,860,804	3,860,804
GeoE.171.013	HOVER	1	5	4.5	5	14.5	GW1	2,999,814	2,999,814
GeoE.171.008	TACTIC	2	4.5	4.5	4.5	13.5	GW2	1,799,979	4,799,793
GeoE.171.004	RESOURces	3	3.5	4	4	11.5	GW3	2,465,654	7,265,447
GeoE.171.015	VoGERA	4	3.5	4	4	11.5	GW4	433,781	7,699,228
GeoE.171.001	MINDeSEA	1	3.5	4	4,5	12	RM3	783,285	783,285
GeoE.171.016	Mintell4EU	2	4	3	5	12	RM1	2,859,159	3,642,444
GeoE.171.017	EuroLithos	3	4	3	4	11	RM2	1,100,357	4,742,801
GeoE.171.010	FRAME	4	3.5	3	4	10.5	RM4	3,139,634	7,882,435
GeoE.171.012	*AGRRE-GRADES*	*5*	*3*	*3*	*4.5*	*10.5*	*RM2*	*1,936,616*	
GeoE.171.006	MUSE	1	4.5	4	4.5	13	GE2	1,313,260	1,313,260
GeoE.171.007	HotLime	2	4	4	4	12	GE2	1,658,728	2,971,988
GeoE.171.011	HIKE	3	4	4	4	12	GE4	1,620,649	4,592,637
GeoE.171.005	3DGEO-EU	4	4	3.5	4	11.5	GE5	3,651,677	8,244,314
GeoE.171.009	GeoConnect^{3}d	5	4	3.5	4	11.5	GE6	1,827,753	10,072,067
GeoE.171.002	GARAH	6	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	GE1	1,060,707*	11,132,774
GeoE.171.003	*Geo4Sure*	*7*	*3.5*	*3.5*	*3.5*	*10.5*	*GE2*	*974,719*	

** GARAH have accepted a lower reimbursement rate (22%) than the other projects (29,7%)*

ANNEX A

Establishing the European Geological Surveys Research Area to deliver a Geological Service for Europe

STATUS REPORT

PROPOSALS AND TECHNICAL EXPERT SEARCH

Authors and affiliation:
Hayfaa Abdul Aziz
[NWO]

E-mail of lead author:
h.abdulaziz@nwo.nl

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

In this deliverable report, a status update of the submitted proposals to the GeoERA Stage 2 Call and the eligibility check is provided. In addition, an overview is given of the activities related to the search of suitable, and independent, technical reviewers for these proposals.

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1 GEOERA STAGE 2 CALL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

On the submission deadline date of 12 January, NWO received a total of 17 proposals to the GeoERA Stage 2 Call (see Table 1). No proposals were submitted to the following two subthemes: 1- *GE4-Energy Storage*; 2- *RM5 Raw Materials Modelling and interactions with energy and groundwater.*

1.1. Eligibility check

All proposals were checked against the eligibility criteria as described in Call document No JC 7. All proposals were submitted well within the deadline of, 17:00hrs CET. Seven proposals did not entirely meet the eligibility criteria and were returned to the Project Lead for correction and subsequent resubmission. Resubmission was permitted within 24 hrs. after receipt of email requesting the correction and adjustment of the proposal. Most ineligibility issues were minor and related to inconsistencies in the budget table 3.3C (see attached excel sheet for the eligibility check results). The proposal resubmitted by the LNEG, *Forecasting and Assessing Europe's Strategic Raw Materials needs (**FRAME**)*, remained having an issue with the figures in Table 3.3c; the requested EU contribution exceeds 29.7%. The GeoERA secretariat decided to request clarification on Table 3.3C. of this proposal, for discussion, during the Executive Board meeting in March; the Project Lead and the Raw Materials Theme Coordinator have been informed.

1.2. ISAAC submission system

NWO's online submission system ISAAC was used by the GeoERA members to submit the proposals. No major issues were encountered that could not be solved. Nevertheless, on Monday the 9th of January 2018, the ISAAC submission system was overloaded because many (hundreds of) applicants were online to submit their proposal before the deadline of a national funding instrument. ISAAC was not accessible for several hours.

A couple of issues concerning ISAAC were encountered by three GeoERA members and were related to the refresh settings of their webpage, which hampered them to access their earlier saved information. The ISAAC Helpdesk was notified and assistance was provided.

***Table 1**. Submitted proposals to the GeoERA Stage 2 call.*

GeoERA Theme	GeoERA Sub-theme	Proposal No.	Proposal Title	Submitted by	Email	Organisation
GeoEnergy	GE1	GeoE.171.002	Geological Analysis and Resource Assessment of selected Hydrocarbon systems - **GARAH**	Dr. Peter Britze	pbr@geus.dk	Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS)
	GE2	GeoE.171.003	Integrating uncertainty in resource assessments for geothermal prospects in different stages of exploration - **Geo4Sure**	Mr. K. Welkenhuysen	kris.welkenhuysen@naturalsciences.be	Geological Survey of Belgium – Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS-GSB)
	GE2	GeoE.171.006	Managing Urban Shallow geothermal Energy - **MUSE**	Mr. G.G. Goetzl	gregor.goetzl@geologie.ac.at	Geologische Bundesanstalt (GBA)
	GE2	GeoE.171.007	**HotLime** –Mapping and Assessment of Geothermal Plays in Deep Carbonate Rocks Cross-domain Implications and Impacts	Dhr. G.W. Diepolder	gerold.diepolder@lfu.bayern.de	Bayerisches landesamt Für Umwelt (LfU)

	GE4	GeoE.171.011	**HIKE**: Hazard and Impact Knowledge for Europe	Mr. Serge van Gessel	serge.vangessel@tno.nl	Nederlandse Organisatie voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek (TNO)
	GE5	GeoE.171.005	3D geomodeling for Europe - **3DGEO-EU**	Mr. S.K. Knopf	stefan.knopf@bgr.de	Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (BGR)
	GE6	GeoE.171.009	Cross-border, cross-thematic multiscale framework for combining geological models and data for resource appraisal and policy support - **GeoConnect³d**	Mr. Kris Piessens	kris.piessens@naturalsciences.be	Institut Royal Des Sciences Naturelles De Belgique (RBINS-GSB)
Groundwater	GW1	GeoE.171.013	Hydrogeological processes and Geological settings over Europe controlling dissolved geogenic and anthropogenic elements in groundwater of relevance to human health and the status of dependent ecosystems - **HOVER**	Mrs. L. G. Gourcy	l.gourcy@brgm.fr	Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM)
	GW2	GeoE.171.008	Tools for Assessment of ClimaTe change ImpacT on Groundwater and Adaptation Strategies - **TACTIC**	Mr. A. Højberg	alh@geus.dk	Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS)
	GW3	GeoE.171.004	**RESOUR**ces of groundwater, harmonized at Cross-Border and Pan-European Scale	Dr. H.P. Broers	h.broers@tno.nl	Nederlandse Organisatie voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek (TNO)
	GW4	GeoE.171.015	**VoGERA**: Vulnerability of Shallow Groundwater Resources to Deep Sub-surface Energy- Related Activities	Mrs. J. Booth	jhbo@bgs.ac.uk	Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
Raw Materials	RM1	GeoE.171.016	Mineral Intelligence for Europe - **Mintell4EU**	Mr. P. Kalvig	pka@geus.dk	Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS)
	RM2	GeoE.171.012	On- and offshore aggregate classification- and mapping inventory system for EURMKB, as input for Spatial Planning - **Aggre-grades**	Mr. J.B.J. (Bo) Jensen	jbj@geus.dk	Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS)
	RM2	GeoE.171.017	**EuroLithos**: Eruopean Ornamental stone resources	Mr. T. Heldal	tom.heldal@ngu.no	Geological Survey of Norway (NGU)
	RM3	GeoE.171.001	Seabed Mineral Deposits in European Seas: Metallogeny and Geological Potential for Strategic and Critical Raw Materials - **MINDeSEA**	Dr. F.J. Gonzalez	fj.gonzalez@igme.es	Instituto Geológico y Minero de España (IGME)
	RM4	GeoE.171.010	Forecasting and Assessing Europe's Strategic Raw Materials needs - **FRAME**	Mr. Daniel Oliveira	daniel.oliveira@lneg.pt	Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia, I.P. (LNEG)
Information Platform	IP1	GeoE.171.014	GeoERA Information Platform project – **GIP-P**	Mr. J. Tulstrup	jtu@geus.dk	Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS)

2 TECHNICAL EXPERT SEARCH

A list of potential reviewers, i.e. technical experts, for the GeoERA (specific) themes was established by mid-December 2017. The search for technical experts was carried out using the abstracts and keywords of the GeoERA project ideas as well as the GeoERA Scope as a starting point. Experts were searched on the internet by consulting the websites of research and governmental institutes, professional organisations, and the industry. In addition, the Scopus author profile search database (https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus; https://www.scopus.com/search/form.uri?display=basic) as well as Elsevier Expert Lookup were used to search for suitable reviewers.
The first invitations to review GeoERA proposals were emailed (using the geoera@nwo.nl account) on the 18th of December 2017. Examples of these emails are shown in Templates 1 and 2. Before the submission deadline on the 12th January 2018, 104 technical experts were approached of which 29 agreed to review. Of these agreed reviewers, 65% is male and 35% female. In Table 2 an overview is given of the search results prior to the submission deadline of the 12th of January 2018.

***Table 2**. Overview of approached reviewers before 12 January 2018 for the 4 GeoERA themes.*

Theme	Gender & Totals	No. of reviewers approached	Yes	No	No Answer
GeoEnergy	Male	38	9	15	14
	Female	8	4	3	1
	Total GeoEnergy	46	13	18	15
Groundwater	Male	21	4	13	4
	Female	11	2	7	2
	Total Groundwater	32	6	20	6
Raw Materials	Male	11	4	4	3
	Female	4	3	1	0
	Total Raw Material	15	7	5	3
Information Platform	Male	10	2	7	1
	Female	1	1	0	0
	Total Information Platform	11	3	7	1
All GeoERA themes	Total reviewers approached	**104**	29 *(28%)*	50 *(48%)*	25 *(24%)*
	Male	80 *(77%)*	19 *(65%)*	37 *(78%)*	22 *(88%)*
	Female	24 *(23%)*	15 *(35%)*	6 *(22%)*	3 *(12%)*

After the closure of the Call for proposals, additional experts have been sought and approached in order to have at least 3 reviewers per proposal. Up to now, another 124 reviewers have been approached. Using ISAAC, the experts were requested to review a proposal; examples of the emails that have been used to approach reviewers and send reminders are shown in templates 3 and 4.
The status of the technical experts search per 29th of January 2018 is shown in Table 3, and includes all reviewers approached so far. Of the 226 approached, 54 agreed to review (a score of 24%) of which 37 is male (69%) and 17 female (31%).

***Table 3**. Overview of all approached reviewers; status per 29-01-2018 of January 2018.*

Theme	Gender & Totals	No. of reviewers apporoached	Yes	No	No Answer
GeoEnergy	Male	92	15	34	43
	Female	19	4	7	8
	Total GeoEnergy	111	19	41	51
Groundwater	Male	43	10	23	10
	Female	14	4	7	3
	Total Groundwater	57	14	30	13
Raw Materials	Male	34	10	14	10
	Female	11	8	3	0
	Total Raw Material	45	18	17	10
Information Platform	Male	12	2	8	2
	Female	1	1	0	0
	Total Information Platform	13	3	8	2

All GeoERA themes	Total reviewers approached	**226**	54 (24%)	96 (42%)	76 (34%)
	Male	181 (80%)	37 (69%)	79 (82%)	65 (86%)
	Female	45 (20%)	17 (31%)	17 (1%)	11 (14%)

In Figure 1, an overview of the geographical distribution of the approached technical experts is shown for all approached experts (Figure 1A) and for those who accepted the invitation to review (Figure 1B).

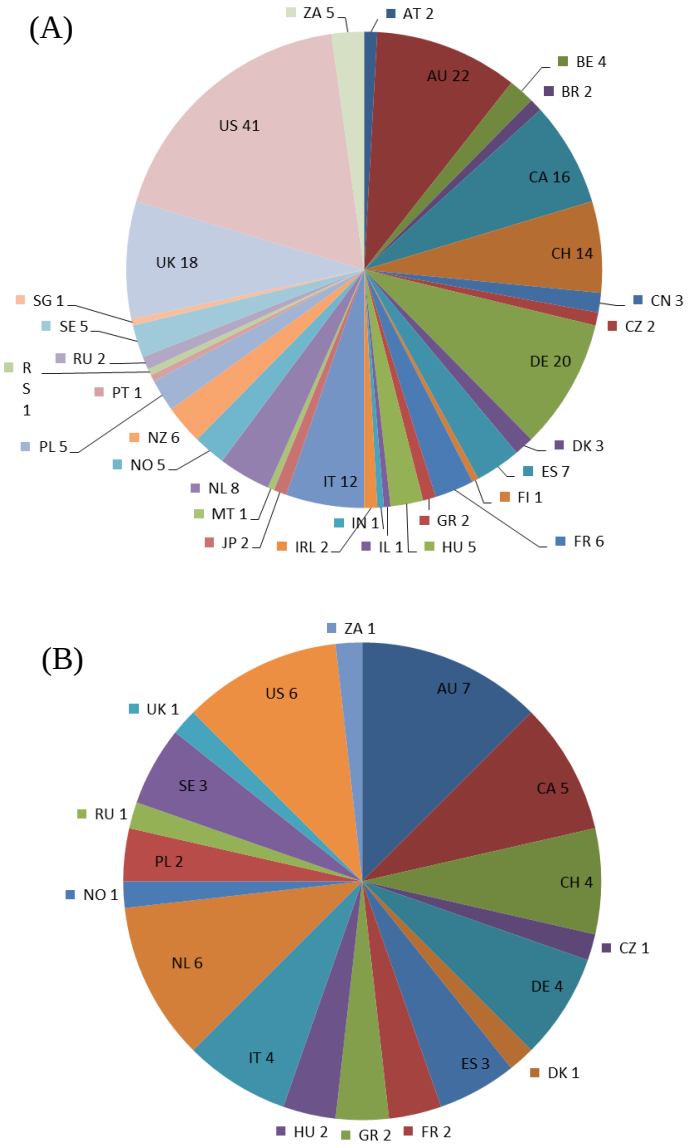

Figure 1. *Geographical distribution of the approached technical experts. A) all; B) experts that accepted to review.*

3 INDEPENDENT EXPERT PANEL

On Monday the 15th of January 2018, a member of the independent expert panel, Professor Dr. Ewa Slaby from the Raw Materials theme, informed me that she cannot attend the panel meeting on the 21st of March due to important other obligations. As a consequence, a new search was started to find a suitable replacement, and fortunately, on the 25th of January a positive response was received from Prof. Emeritus Dr. Walther Pohl (details about his background can be found on his webpage: http://www.walter-pohl.com/cv.html).

4 FINAL COMMENTS

On the next pages, the following email templates can be found:

Template 1 - invitation letter to review

Template 2 - reminder invitation letter to review

Template 3 - review request (from ISAAC)

Template 4 - reminder review request (from ISAAC)

Template 5 - confirmation receipt of proposal (from ISAAC)

Template 6 - proposal provisionally not eligible (from ISAAC)

Template 7 - proposal eligible (from ISAAC)

Template 8 - confirmation of receipt review report (from ISAAC)

Finally, two excel sheets one with the results of the eligibility check and the other with an overview of all approached reviewers and their contact details as well as the proposal to which they have been assigned to has been delivered to GeoERA's Independent Observer Mr. Duncan Jarvis.

5 TEMPLATES

Template 1 - invitation letter to review

Dear [persoonAanhef],

On behalf of the GeoERA Secretariat and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), I would like to assess your availability to review proposals submitted to the GeoERA Stage 2 Call "*Establishing the European Geological Surveys Research Area to deliver a Geological Service for Europe*".

The closing date of the call is 12 January 2018. Given the relatively short period between receipt of proposals and approaching suitable reviewers, I would like to assess your availability to review in advance. For your information, the review period of proposals will be between the 16th of January and 13th of February 2018; deadline of review report submission is 14th of February. The GeoERA Joint Call will fund project proposals submitted by geological survey organizations that are members of GeoERA. Information of the Stage 2 Call can be found on the GeoERA website: http://geoera.eu/call/. Call documents JC No. 8 and JC No. 9 are of special relevance to you, especially document JC No. 9 where the specific research themes are listed. For your convenience, a description of the aim of the call can be found below. I would like to invite you to review proposals submitted to the theme **GeoEnergy**.

Please let me know as soon as possible whether you are willing and able to review a proposal within the specific theme. If you are unable, I would highly appreciate if you could recommend me potential reviewers for this theme.

Thank you for your time, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. H. Abdul Aziz
GeoERA Call Secretariat
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)

Brief description of aims and objectives of GeoERA-Stage 2 Call

GeoERA aims to integrate European GSOs information and knowledge on subsurface energy, water and raw material resources to support sustainable use of the subsurface in addressing Europe's societal challenges. With the Horizon2020 Work Programme in mind GeoERA launches this Joint Call for transnational research projects (Joint Research Project), to which GeoERA Partners may submit Project Proposals in Stage 2.

GeoERA addresses four themes: **A) GeoEnergy**, **B) Groundwater**, **C) Raw Materials**, and **D) Information Platform**. The Information Platform theme is crosscutting in nature, and is designed to provide a sustainable framework to disseminate the findings and data from the other themes. The Scientific Scope of the GeoERA Research Programme and the objectives of the four themes are described in the GeoERA Call Document No. 4 Scientific Scope.

Proposals for projects have been submitted to reflect the Specific Research Topics (SRTs) that accomplices the general challenges, objectives and scope of the specific GeoERA Themes. In all SRTs submitting proposals on cross-thematic research is encouraged. The SRTs can be found in the GeoERA Call Document No. 9 Call Announcement and Scientific Scope. In all SRTs submitting proposals on cross-thematic research is encouraged.

The Joint Research Projects should address the development of:

- Interoperable, pan-European data and information services on the distribution of geo-energy, groundwater and raw material resources and harmonized methods to assess them;
- Common assessment frameworks and methodologies supporting a better understanding and management of the water-energy-raw materials nexus and potential impacts and risks of subsurface use;
- Knowledge and services aimed at European, national and regional policy makers, industry and other stakeholders.

The **objectives** of the Joint Research Projects are to:

- Integrate national and regional research resources;
- Develop, improve, optimize and harmonize pan-European geological data and information at a scale and resolution that is useful for national and regional geological mapping programmes;
- Contribute to the establishment of a common European Geological Knowledge Base, and to the provision of a Geological Service for Europe.
- The European Geological Knowledge Base will provide European stakeholders with access to objective and seamless data, information, knowledge and expertise on subsurface resources. This will contribute to the following goals:
- Facilitate the optimal use and sustainable management of the subsurface; maximising its added value for energy, groundwater and raw material resources; while minimising environmental impacts and footprints;
- Support the reaching of good environmental status for subterranean and seabed resources.

In Joint Call Document No. 9 Call Announcement and Scientific Scope, details of the challenges, scope, and expected impact of each SRT per theme are given. In addition, every SRT has a table that includes the estimated total budget for the SRT, the estimated budget per project proposal, and the maximum number of projects funded within the SRT. These estimations serve as an indication for project sizes and the number of projects the Executive Board is expecting. In turn they serve as guidelines for the submitters. The estimations are indicative to optimally use the EU funding provided to GeoERA. The final amount of funding for each project or SRT might change depending on the outcome of the evaluation and ranking of the proposals. The evaluation procedure is explained in Joint Call Document No. 8 Evaluation and selection.

Template 2 - reminder invitation letter to review

Dear [persoonAanhef],

Recently, you received an invitation to review a research proposal that will be submitted to the GeoERA Stage 2 Call "*Establishing the European Geological Surveys Research Area to deliver a Geological Service for Europe*". See earlier message below. Until now I have not received a reply from you.

I kindly request you to inform me as soon as possible whether you are able and willing to review a proposal between the 16th of January and 13th of February. If you are unable, I would very much appreciate if you could recommend me potential reviewers.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.
Yours sincerely,

Hayfaa Abdul Aziz
GeoERA Call Secretariat
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)

Template 3 - review request (from ISAAC)

Date: [datum]
File: [dossiernummer]
Mail id: [contactnummer]

Dear [persoonAanhef],

On behalf of the GeoERA Secretariat and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), I would like to request your co-operation in assessing the research proposal: "[titel]" submitted by [hoofdaanvrager][persoonVolledigeNaam]:forEach] (registration number [dossiernummer]) to the GeoERA Stage 2 Call "*Establishing the European Geological Surveys Research Area to deliver a Geological Service for Europe*". The abstract of this proposal is appended below.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are willing to act as a reviewer for this proposal by responding to this e-mail. Information about this call can be found on the GeoERA webpage: http://geoera.eu/call/. Please consult call document *JC No.9-Call Announcement and Scientific Scope*.

The full proposal, the assessment form and all other information necessary for your review is available in ISAAC, the Online Submission and Reporting Tool of NWO. If you are willing to assess this application we will create an ISAAC account for you and send you the login information. To ensure that the assessment procedure remains on schedule, I kindly ask you to submit your review before [deadlinePolsenReferent].

The scientific part of the proposal has a maximum length of 30 pages. The tables in section 3, as well as the whole sections *4-Members of the consortium* and *5-Ethics and Security* do not fall within this page limit.

Your review should adhere to the following criteria: 1- Excellence; 2- Impact; and 3- Quality and efficiency of the implementation (for more details, see call document *JC No. 8-Evaluation and Selection*). After the review reports deadline, all applicants are given the opportunity to respond by submitting a rebuttal letter to the anonymous assessment reports. The review reports and rebuttal letters are subsequently evaluated and prioritised by independent experts who, in a review meeting, will produce a preliminary ranking list. Finally, on the 13th of April 2018 the GeoERA General Assembly will approve the proposals to be funded based on the recommendations of the GeoERA Executive Board, the ranking list, and the available budget. Of course, you will be informed of the outcome of the assessment procedure.

In case you are unable to review the proposal within the above-mentioned time, I would appreciate your advice about alternative reviewers within your research group or elsewhere.

Many thanks in advance.
Yours sincerely,

Dr. H. Abdul Aziz
GeoERA Call Secretariat
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)

Abstract:

[samenvatting]

Template 4 - reminder review request (from ISAAC)

Date: [datum]
File: [dossiernummer]
Mail id: [contactnummer]

Dear [persoonAanhef],

A few days ago I sent you an e-mail requesting your assistance in the assessment of the research proposal: "[titel]". This application has been submitted by [hoofdaanvrager][persoonVolledigeNaam]:forEach] to the GeoERA Stage 2 Call "*Establishing the European Geological Surveys Research Area to deliver a Geological Service for Europe*". Until now I have not received a reply from you.

The GeoERa Secretariat and NWO values your opinion on the proposed research as an expert in the relevant field. To ensure that the assessment procedure remains on schedule, your review is requested before [deadlinePolsenReferent]. The full proposal, the assessment form and all other information necessary for your review is available in ISAAC, the Online Submission and Reporting Tool of NWO. If you are willing to assess this application we will create an ISAAC account for you and send you the login information.

Please do inform me as soon as possible whether you are willing to act as a reviewer. In case you are unable to review the proposal within the above-mentioned time, I would very much appreciate your advice about alternative reviewers within your research group or elsewhere.

Below I have listed brief information about the proposals and review procedure.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.
Yours sincerely,

Dr. H. Abdul Aziz
GeoERA Call Secretariat
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)

Brief description of GeoERA-Stage 2 Call proposals and assessment:

The scientific part of the proposal has a maximum length of 30 pages. The tables in section 3, as well as sections *4-Members of the consortium* and *5-Ethics and Security* do not fall within the page limit.
The expert review is expected to adhere to the following criteria: 1- Excellence; 2- Impact; and 3- Quality and efficiency of the implementation (for more details, see webpage: http://geoera.eu/call/ and call document JC No. 8-Evaluation and Selection). After the review reports deadline, all applicants are given the opportunity to respond by submitting a rebuttal letter to the anonymous assessment reports. The review reports and rebuttal letters are subsequently evaluated and prioritised by independent experts who, in a review meeting, will produce a preliminary ranking list. Finally, on the 13th of April 2018 the GeoERA General Assembly will approve the proposals to be funded based on the recommendations of the GeoERA Executive Board, the ranking list, and the available budget. Of course, you will be informed of the outcome of the assessment procedure.

Abstract:
[samenvatting]

Template 5 - confirmation receipt of proposal (from ISAAC)

Date: [datum]
File: [dossiernummer]
Mail id: [contactnummer]

Dear [persoonAanhef],

On behalf of GeoERA and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), I would like to thank you for submitting your proposal: "[titel]" to ISAAC, the Online Submission Tool of NWO.
The eligibility and admissibility of your proposal will be checked according to the conditions and guidelines as outlined in the GeoERA Joint Call document JC No. 3. You will be informed about the admissibility of your proposal well within the running period of this call. Your submission is registered under number [dossiernummer] please mention this number when corresponding.

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact me by e-mail: geoera@nwo.nl or by phone: +31 (0)70 349 40 87.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. H. Abdul Aziz
GeoERA Call Secretariat
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)

Template 6 - proposal provisionally not eligible (from ISAAC)

Date: [datum]
File: [dossiernummer]
Mail id: [contactnummer]

Dear [persoonAanhef],

On behalf of the GeoERA Secretariat and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), I regret to inform you that your project proposal titled: "[titel]" (registration number [dossiernummer]) does not meet the eligibility and admissibility conditions as outlined in the GeoERA call document JC No. 3.
The reasons are:

- [oordeelMotivering]

Please adjust your proposal according to the points listed above and resubmit it **(in pdf-format)** using ISAAC, the Online Submission Tool of NWO. Please login with your existing account (see document JC No. 10 "Online Submission Tool" for further instructions) and submit the updated proposal **within 24 hours** after receipt of this message.

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact me by e-mail: geoera@nwo.nl or by phone: +31 (0)70 349 40 87.

Kind regards,

Dr. H. Abdul Aziz
GeoERA Call Secretariat
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)

Template 7 - proposal eligible (from ISAAC)

Date: [datum]
File: [dossiernummer]
Mail id: [contactnummer]

Dear [persoonAanhef],

On behalf of GeoERA and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), I would like to inform you that your project proposal titled: "[titel]" (registration number [dossiernummer]) meets the eligibility and admissibility conditions as outlined in the GeoERA Joint Call document JC No. 3.
Your proposal will be sent to technical experts for peer review. On the 15th of February 2018 you will receive their review reports to give you an opportunity to send a rebuttal. Subsequently, the review reports and your rebuttal will be sent to independent experts who will do the final evaluation and initial ranking. The final ranking and approval of proposals will be carried out by the GeoERA General Assembly on the 13th of April 2018. Please refer to the GeoERA Joint Call document JC No. 8 for details of the evaluation procedure. A brief description is given below. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact me by e-mail: geoera@nwo.nl or by phone: +31 (0)70 349 40 87.

Kind regards,

Dr. H. Abdul Aziz
GeoERA Call Secretariat
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)

Brief description of GeoERA Stage 2 Call assessment procedure:

1- Your proposal will be put forward to the technical experts who will review your proposal on the following criteria: 1- Excellence; 2- Impact; 3- Quality and efficiency of the implementation.
   The resulting review reports will be made anonymous and sent to you. You then have an opportunity for a rebuttal. Note that you will have one week, from the 15th to the 21st of February, to react and submit your rebuttal letter.
2- The proposals, review reports, and rebuttal letters will be forwarded to independent experts who, in a panel meeting, will evaluate and rank the proposals.
3- The GeoERA Executive Board will finally gather all the information, including the ranking, and formulate an advice that will be sent to the General Assembly for final approval on the 13th of April 2018.

Template 8 - confirmation of receipt review report (from ISAAC)

Date: [datum]
File: [dossiernummer]
Mail id: [contactnummer]

Dear [persoonAanhef],

On behalf of the GeoERA Secretariat and Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), I would like to thank you for your valuable review of the research proposal entitled: "[titel]", submitted by [hoofdaanvrager][persoonVolledigeNaam]:forEach]. The review will be an essential contribution to the decision-making process.

The GeoERA Secretariat is aware that this review may have taken a considerable amount of your time and is extremely grateful for your assistance. Your expert co-operation is important for helping us to select the top-level proposals and we therefore hope that we once again can draw upon your expertise in the future.

Kind regards,

Dr. H. Abdul Aziz
GeoERA Call Secretariat
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)

ANNEX B

Establishing the European Geological Surveys Research Area to deliver a Geological Service for Europe

STATUS REPORT

Review reports and rebuttal letters

Authors and affiliation:
Hayfaa Abdul Aziz
[NWO]

E-mail of lead author:
h.abdulaziz@nwo.nl

Version: 13-03-2018

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

In this report, an overview is given of the submission process of the review reports and the rebuttal letters for the GeoERA stage 2 Call. In addition, a list is provided of the final names of technical experts who submitted a review report.

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2 FINAL OVERVIEW TECHNICAL EXPERTS 5

3 INDEPENDENT EXPERT PANEL 7

3.1Code of Conduct declaration 7

APPENDIX – I *ISAAC online pages overview*

1 REVIEW REPORTS AND REBUTTAL SUBMISSION

A short description of the course of the review reports and rebuttal letters submission process is given here.

1.1 Review reports

Most of the technical experts submitted their review reports in time, i.e. well before the deadline 17:00 hrs on the 14th of February. Exceptions are:

- Two technical experts reviewing proposals GeoE.171.006 and GeoE.171.017, respectively, indicated beforehand that the reviewing period is too short to assess the proposal and requested an extension of the deadline date to the 19th of February. This request was accepted as the required 3 experts reviewers is a perquisite for the GeoERA Call and every acceptation to review is very welcome given the difficulty in finding technical experts.
- Two technical experts exceeded the review deadline date without indicating beforehand that a delay may be at hand. Their review reports were submitted, after urgent appeals, on the 18th and 19th of February, respectively.
- Four experts delivered their review reports on Thursday the 15th of February. These concerned the reports for proposals GeoE.171.015, GeoE.171.013, GeoE.171.009, and GeoE.171.005.

Four technical experts had problems to logon to the Review and Submission system ISAAC. They submitted their review report by email using the form Instructions to the Technical Reviewers as published on the GeoERA call webpage. After receipt, their reports were subsequently uploaded into ISAAC.

1.2 Rebuttal letters

From the 15th until the 22nd of February, applicants had the opportunity to write rebuttal letter to the comments raised by the technical experts in their review reports. A page limit for the rebuttal letters was set at 2 pages A4. Two letters exceeded this page limit, however, they were accepted:

- The rebuttal letter by Mr. Kalvig (GeoE.171.016) exceeded the page limit because an updated chart was added to the letter (after comment from a reviewer that tasks are running in parallel);
- The letter by Mr. Tulstrup (GeoE.171.014) exceeded the page limit by about half a page. However, Tulstrup used a large font size with wide page margins but the number of words did not exceed the number of words in the other rebuttal letters that did maintain the 2 pages A4 limit.

As mentioned in 1.1, a few technical experts were late in submitting their review reports. Nevertheless, the review reports that were already in ISAAC were made available to the applicants on the 15th of February so that they could start with the preparations for their rebuttal. As soon as the last review report was submitted to ISAAC, the applicant was informed and the rebuttal letter upload in ISAAC was enabled.
All applicants submitted their rebuttal letters before 17:00 hrs. on the deadline date of the 22nd of February.

2 FINAL OVERVIEW TECHNICAL EXPERTS

In the previous overview sent in January 2018, all approached technical experts per 29-01-2018 were listed, including those who were approached by 'normal' email, i.e. not only through ISAAC.
Below, a table of all approached technical experts within the online Submission and Evaluation system ISAAC is shown. These experts had access to the proposals (only after they accepted to review) and submitted their review reports into ISAAC. Note that since the 29th of January, additional experts were approached as an there was an insufficient number of experts for several proposals.
Of the 164 technical experts in the ISAAC system, 33% accepted to review, of which 30% were female.

Table 1.

Theme	Gender/Totals	No. of reviewers approached	Yes	No	No Answer
GeoEnergy	Male	72	18	53	1
	Female	17	5	12	0
	Total GeoEnergy	89	23	65	1
Groundwater	Male	27	9	17	1
	Female	5	3	2	0
	Total Groundwater	32	12	19	1
Raw Materials	Male	27	9	18	0
	Female	10	7	3	0
	Total Raw Materials	37	16	21	0
Information Platform	Male	5	2	3	0
	Female	1	1	0	0
	Total Information Platform	6	3	3	0

All GeoERA themes	Total reviewers approached in ISAAC	**164**	54 *(33%)*	108 *(66%)*	2 *(1%)*
	Male	131 (80*%)*	38 ***(70%)***	91 *(84%)*	2 *(100%)*
	Female	33 *(20%)*	16 ***(30%)***	17 *(16%)*	0

An overview of the geographical distribution of the technical experts who submitted their review reports is shown in Figure 1.

(A)

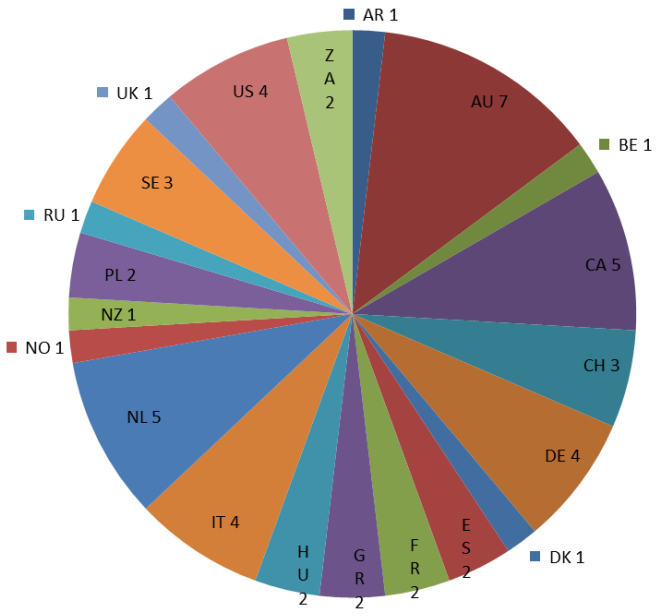


Figure 1. *Geographical distribution of the technical experts.*

3 INDEPENDENT EXPERT PANEL

During the past months, the independent expert panel has been a subject of continuous concern. The GeoERA Call clearly states that at least three independent experts are required to assess the proposals and reach a consensus score, this number of three experts has proven to be quite a challenge.
On Tuesday the 27th of February, Prof. Dr. Jon Gluyas indicated that he could not attend the independent expert meeting in The Hague because of (somewhat unexpected) other responsibilities. After a short but thorough search within his organisation and elsewhere, no replacement could be found. Fortunately, Prof. Dr. Gluyas agreed to attend the meeting online through a web connection. He was also assured that the GeoEnergy proposals will be discussed in the morning part of the meeting.

3.1 Code of Conduct declaration

All independent experts were asked to sign the code of conduct declaration form (Code of Conduct and Declaration).

Two independent experts have indicated that there is a conflict of interest:

- On Saturday the 3rd of March, Prof. Dr. Sachsenhofer had to resign from his task as an independent expert as he appeared to be involved in 4 of the 7 proposals submitted to the GeoEnergy theme. Fortunately, a solution was found quite swiftly and Prof. Dr. Sachsenhofer is replaced by Dr. Wolfgang Nachtmann.
- Prof. Dr. Habets has indicated her involvement in the proposal TACTIC (GeoE.171.008). The procedure at NWO is that the involved expert will have to leave the meeting room as soon as the proposal in question is being discussed. Prof. Dr. Habets is also not permitted to give a score to this proposal. Since three experts are required for the consensus score, Dr. Walter Pohl, who also has experience in groundwater, has been asked to assess the TACTIC proposal. He agreed.

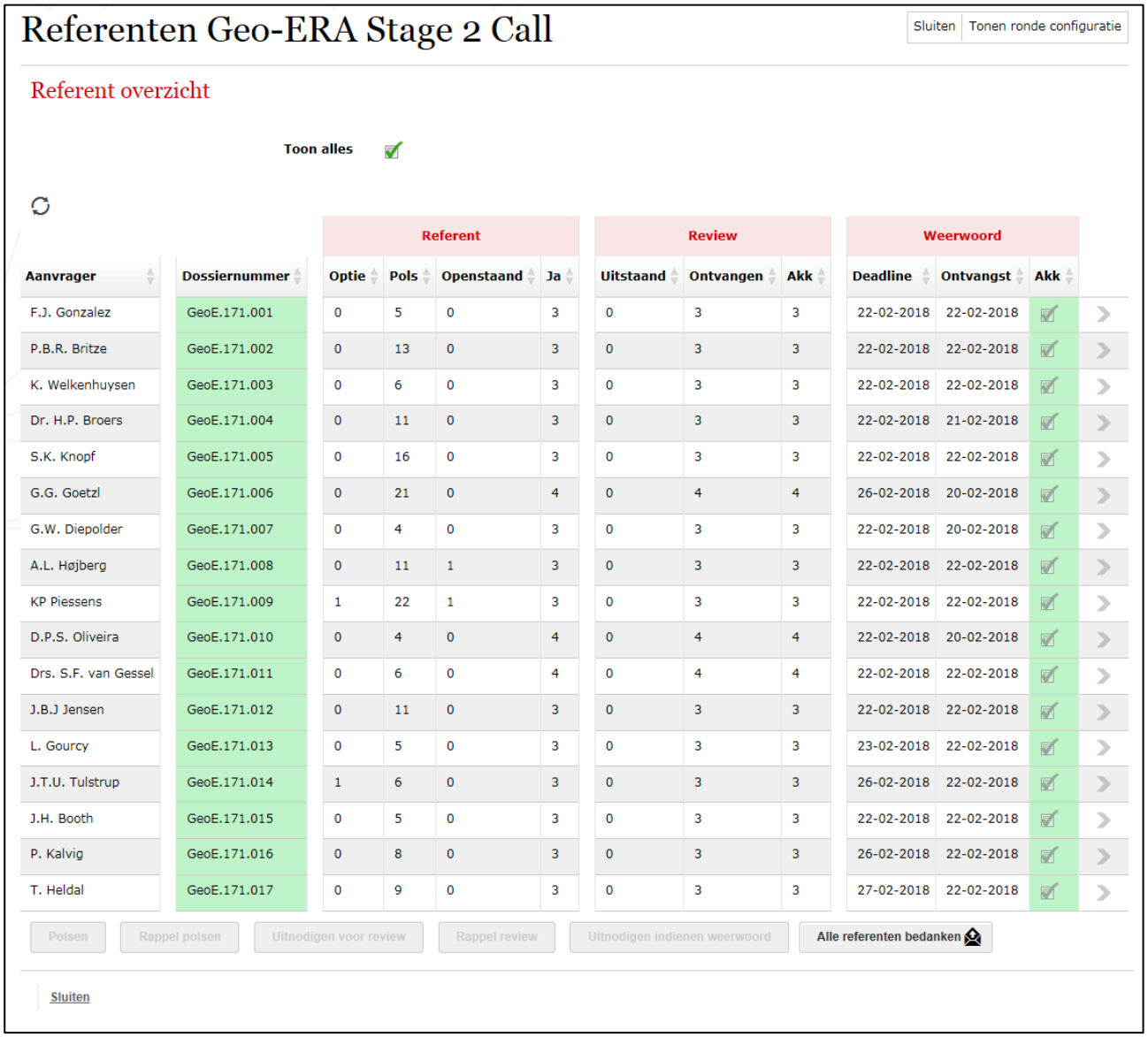
The GeoERA's independent expert panel now consists of the following members:

Theme	Expert	M/F	Country	Institute/Organisation
Geo-Energy (GE)	Prof. Dr. Stefan Wiemer	M	CH	Schweiz. Erdbebendienst (SED), Dept. of Earth Sciences, ETHZ, Zurich
	Prof. Dr. Jon Gluyas	M	UK	Durham Energy Institute (DEI), Department of Earth Sciences, Durham
	Dr. Wolfgang Nachtmann	M	AT	Honorary Professor at Montanuniversitaet Leoben. Independent consultant E&P
Groundwater (GW)	Dr. Florence Habets	F	FR	Milieux Environnementaux, Transferts et Interactions dans les Hydrosystemes et les Sols, Paris
	Prof. Dr. Milena Horvat	F	SI	Department of Environmental Sciences, Jozef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana
	Prof. Dr. Mario Schirmer	M	CH	Centre for Hydrogeology, University of Neuchâtel AND Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, Dubendorf
Raw Materials (RM)	Dr. Santiago Cuesta-Lopez	M	ES	ICCRAM (International Research Center in CRMs for Advanced Industrial Technologies), University of Burgos
	Prof. Em. Dr. Walther Pohl	M	AT	Sr. Consultant in Economic Geology, Related Geological, Environmental and Water Management, and Social Reconciliation, Krems an der Donau
	Prof. Dr. Olav Eklund	M	FI	Department of Geology and Mineralogy, Abo Akademi University, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Abo
Information Platform (IP)	David Howard	M	AU	The Geological Survey of Western Australia, Geoscience mapping Branch. Government of Western Australia, Department of Mines industry Regulation and Safety, Perth
	Dr. Paul Duller	M	UK	Tribal Group plc, Bristol
	Prof. em. Dr. Roland Oberhänsli	M	DE	University of Potsdam, Institute of Earth and Environmental Science, Potsdam-Golm

In the following Appendix, screenshots and brief explanations are given of the Submission and Reviewing system ISAAC for the GeoERA Stage 2 Call. In this way, an overview of this online system and the information stored in there is provided.

Appendix I

One of the most relevant online pages in ISAAC is the '**Referees'** page, which shows an overview of the evaluation process, and its progress, for the submitted proposals (see below).



Referenten Geo-ERA Stage 2 Call

Sluiten | Tonen ronde configuratie

Referent overzicht

Toon alles

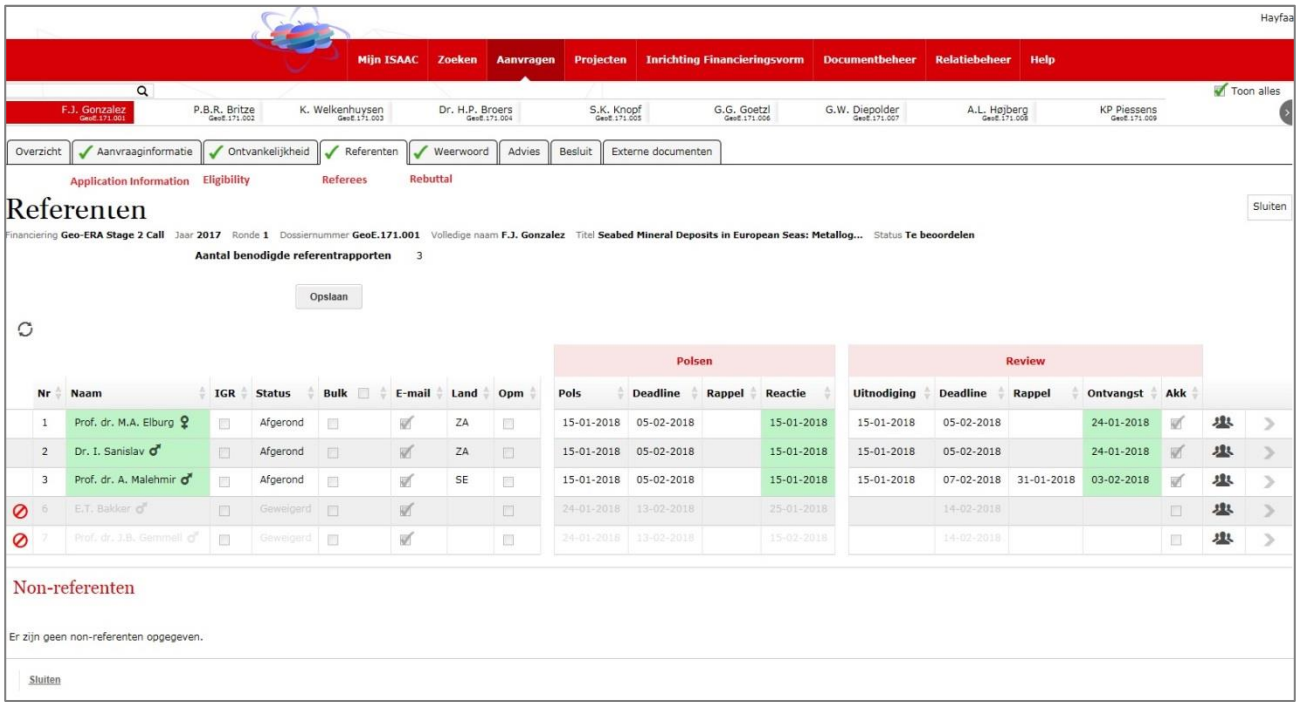
		Referent				Review			Weerwoord		
Aanvrager	Dossiernummer	Optie	Pols	Openstaand	Ja	Uitstaand	Ontvangen	Akk	Deadline	Ontvangst	Akk
F.J. Gonzalez	GeoE.171.001	0	5	0	3	0	3	3	22-02-2018	22-02-2018	
P.B.R. Britze	GeoE.171.002	0	13	0	3	0	3	3	22-02-2018	22-02-2018	
K. Welkenhuysen	GeoE.171.003	0	6	0	3	0	3	3	22-02-2018	22-02-2018	
Dr. H.P. Broers	GeoE.171.004	0	11	0	3	0	3	3	22-02-2018	21-02-2018	
S.K. Knopf	GeoE.171.005	0	16	0	3	0	3	3	22-02-2018	22-02-2018	
G.G. Goetzl	GeoE.171.006	0	21	0	4	0	4	4	26-02-2018	20-02-2018	
G.W. Diepolder	GeoE.171.007	0	4	0	3	0	3	3	22-02-2018	20-02-2018	
A.L. Højberg	GeoE.171.008	0	11	1	3	0	3	3	22-02-2018	22-02-2018	
KP Piessens	GeoE.171.009	1	22	1	3	0	3	3	22-02-2018	22-02-2018	
D.P.S. Oliveira	GeoE.171.010	0	4	0	4	0	4	4	22-02-2018	20-02-2018	
Drs. S.F. van Gessel	GeoE.171.011	0	6	0	4	0	4	4	22-02-2018	22-02-2018	
J.B.J Jensen	GeoE.171.012	0	11	0	3	0	3	3	22-02-2018	22-02-2018	
L. Gourcy	GeoE.171.013	0	5	0	3	0	3	3	23-02-2018	22-02-2018	
J.T.U. Tulstrup	GeoE.171.014	1	6	0	3	0	3	3	26-02-2018	22-02-2018	
J.H. Booth	GeoE.171.015	0	5	0	3	0	3	3	22-02-2018	22-02-2018	
P. Kalvig	GeoE.171.016	0	8	0	3	0	3	3	26-02-2018	22-02-2018	
T. Heldal	GeoE.171.017	0	9	0	3	0	3	3	27-02-2018	22-02-2018	

Polsen | Rappel polsen | Uitnodigen voor review | Rappel review | Uitnodigen indienen weerwoord | Alle referenten bedanken

Sluiten

The screenshot above shows the names of the applicants and their proposal number. The ***Referent*** columns show the no. of alternative technical experts to be approached (*Optie*), the no. of experts approached (*Pols*), the no. of experts that did not respond (*Openstaand*), and the no. of experts that accepted to review. The ***Review*** columns show the no. of review reports due, the no. of received reports, and the confirmed no. of received reports (this is a check done by the responsible NWO employee). Finally, the ***Weerwoord*** columns show the *Deadline* to submit the rebuttal letter and the date of receipt (*Ontvangst*). The official deadline to submit the rebuttal letter was set on the 22nd of February. The reason for deadline deviations is that some review reports were received after the 14th of February. Consequently, the deadline for submitting a rebuttal moves automatically to fulfill the one week rebuttal period. See for more details the discussion in report.

By selecting one proposal from the list above, a separate overview of this proposal is shown (see below).



The various tabs in the upper part of this screenshot include (see red-coloured text in figure above):

Application information: includes the title of the proposal, the name of the applicant, the proposal summary, the (earth sciences) discipline, the name of the organisation of the applicant, and the names of the participating organisations. In addition, the uploaded application form (i.e. the actual proposal) and other uploaded documents (if any) are stored here.

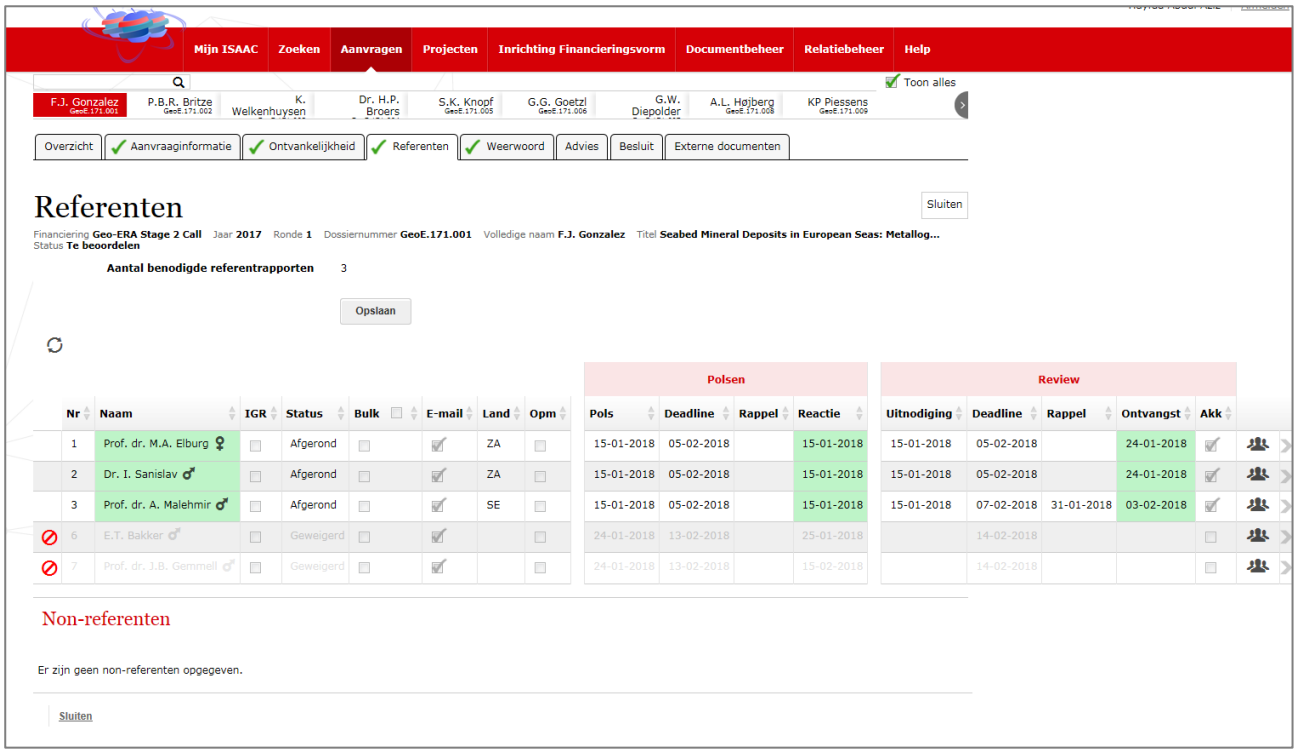
Eligibility: here the eligibility of the proposal is indicated after the eligibility check has been performed.

Referees: this is probably the most important tab during the reviewing period and is displayed for each proposal in the next pages of this Appendix.

Rebuttal: under this tab the deadline and submission date of the rebuttal letter as well as the uploaded letter is stored.

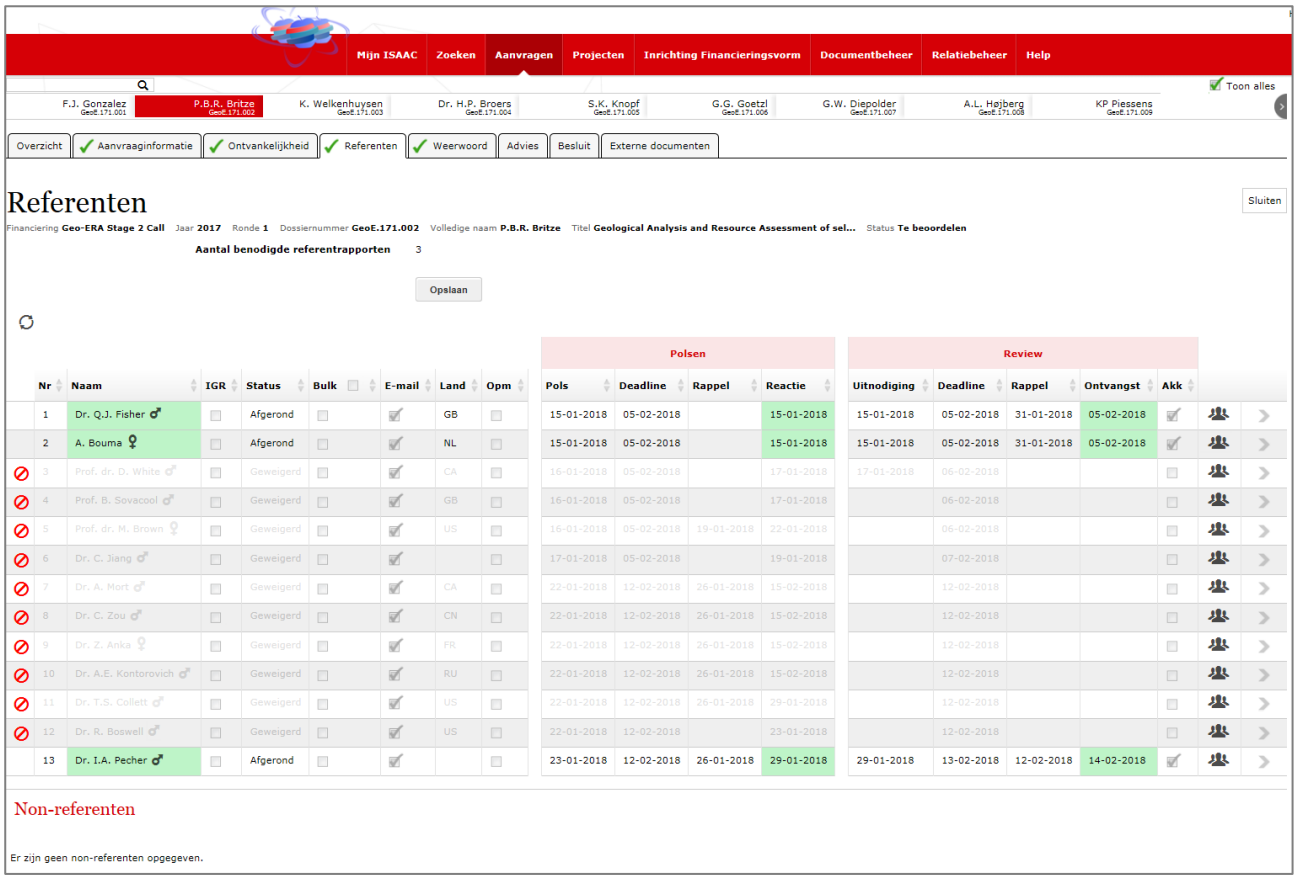
The other tabs are not relevant for the GeoERA Stage 2 Call, as the score advice (*Advies*) and the decision (*Besluit*) will be carried out by the GeoERA board and consortium and not internally by NWO.

In the next pages, screenshots of the **Referee** tab is displayed for each GeoERA proposal. A short explanation of the information under this tab is given for the first proposal only.



Under the **Referees** tab, the overview of the approached technical experts (i.e. reviewers) is shown. The *Status* column indicates whether the expert accepted the review request, or declined it (*Geweigerd*), and whether the review has been completed (*Afgerond*). In some cases on the next pages, '*Gepolst'* is shown as a Status, meaning that the approached expert has not replied to the request to review. Another Status indicator is '*Gekoppeld',* meaning that the name of an expert has been coupled to the proposal but no request to review has been sent.

Under the broad column ***Polsen***, the date of the sent review request (*Pols*), the *Deadline* to accept/decline the request, and the response date (*Reactie*) is shown. In the last broad column ***Review***, the following information is shown: the date the proposal was sent to the expert for review (*Uitnodiging*), the *Deadline* to submit the review, a reminder to submit the review (*Rappel*), and the date the review report was submitted (*Ontvangst*). By clicking on the arrow on the rightmost side of the window, the stored review report submitted by the expert can be accessed.


Mijn ISAAC
Zoeken
Aanvragen
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F.J. Gonzalez GeoE.171.001
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S.K. Knopf GeoE.171.005
G.G. Goetzl GeoE.171.006
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1 Dr. Q.J. Fisher Afgerond GB 15-01-2018 05-02-2018 15-01-2018 15-01-2018 05-02-2018 31-01-2018 05-02-2018
2 A. Bouma Afgerond NL 15-01-2018 05-02-2018 15-01-2018 15-01-2018 05-02-2018 31-01-2018 05-02-2018
3 Prof. dr. D. White Geweigerd CA 16-01-2018 05-02-2018 17-01-2018 17-01-2018 06-02-2018
4 Prof. B. Sovacool Geweigerd GB 16-01-2018 05-02-2018 17-01-2018 06-02-2018
5 Prof. dr. M. Brown Geweigerd US 16-01-2018 05-02-2018 19-01-2018 22-01-2018 06-02-2018
6 Dr. C. Jiang Geweigerd 17-01-2018 05-02-2018 19-01-2018 07-02-2018
7 Dr. A. Mort Geweigerd CA 22-01-2018 12-02-2018 26-01-2018 15-02-2018 12-02-2018
8 Dr. C. Zou Geweigerd CN 22-01-2018 12-02-2018 26-01-2018 15-02-2018 12-02-2018
9 Dr. Z. Anka Geweigerd FR 22-01-2018 12-02-2018 26-01-2018 15-02-2018 12-02-2018
10 Dr. A.E. Kontorovich Geweigerd RU 22-01-2018 12-02-2018 26-01-2018 15-02-2018 12-02-2018
11 Dr. T.S. Collett Geweigerd US 22-01-2018 12-02-2018 26-01-2018 29-01-2018 12-02-2018
12 Dr. R. Boswell Geweigerd US 22-01-2018 12-02-2018 23-01-2018 12-02-2018
13 Dr. I.A. Pecher Afgerond 23-01-2018 12-02-2018 26-01-2018 29-01-2018 29-01-2018 13-02-2018 12-02-2018 14-02-2018
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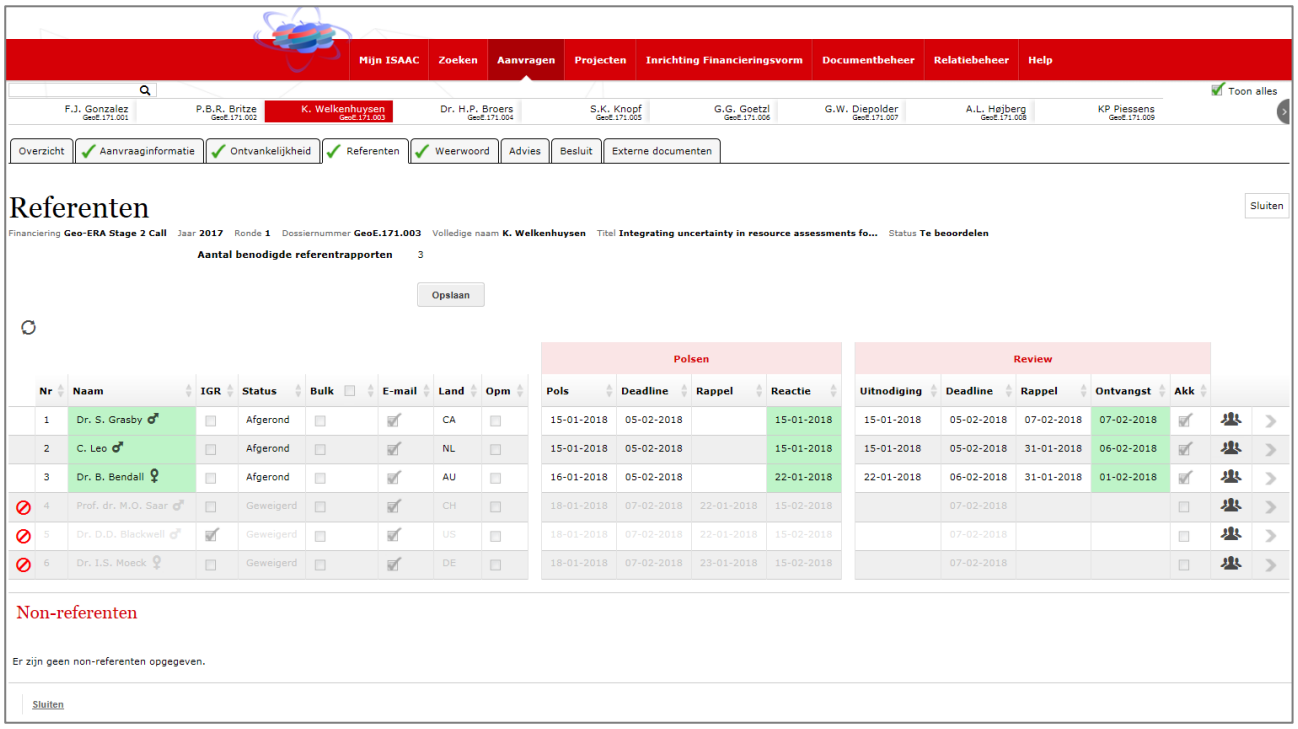
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2 C. Leo Afgerond NL 15-01-2018 05-02-2018 15-01-2018 15-01-2018 05-02-2018 31-01-2018 06-02-2018
3 Dr. B. Bendall Afgerond AU 16-01-2018 05-02-2018 22-01-2018 22-01-2018 06-02-2018 31-01-2018 01-02-2018
4 Prof. dr. M.O. Saar Geweigerd CH 18-01-2018 07-02-2018 22-01-2018 15-02-2018 07-02-2018
5 Dr. D.D. Blackwell Geweigerd US 18-01-2018 07-02-2018 22-01-2018 15-02-2018 07-02-2018
6 Dr. I.S. Moeck Geweigerd DE 18-01-2018 07-02-2018 23-01-2018 15-02-2018 07-02-2018
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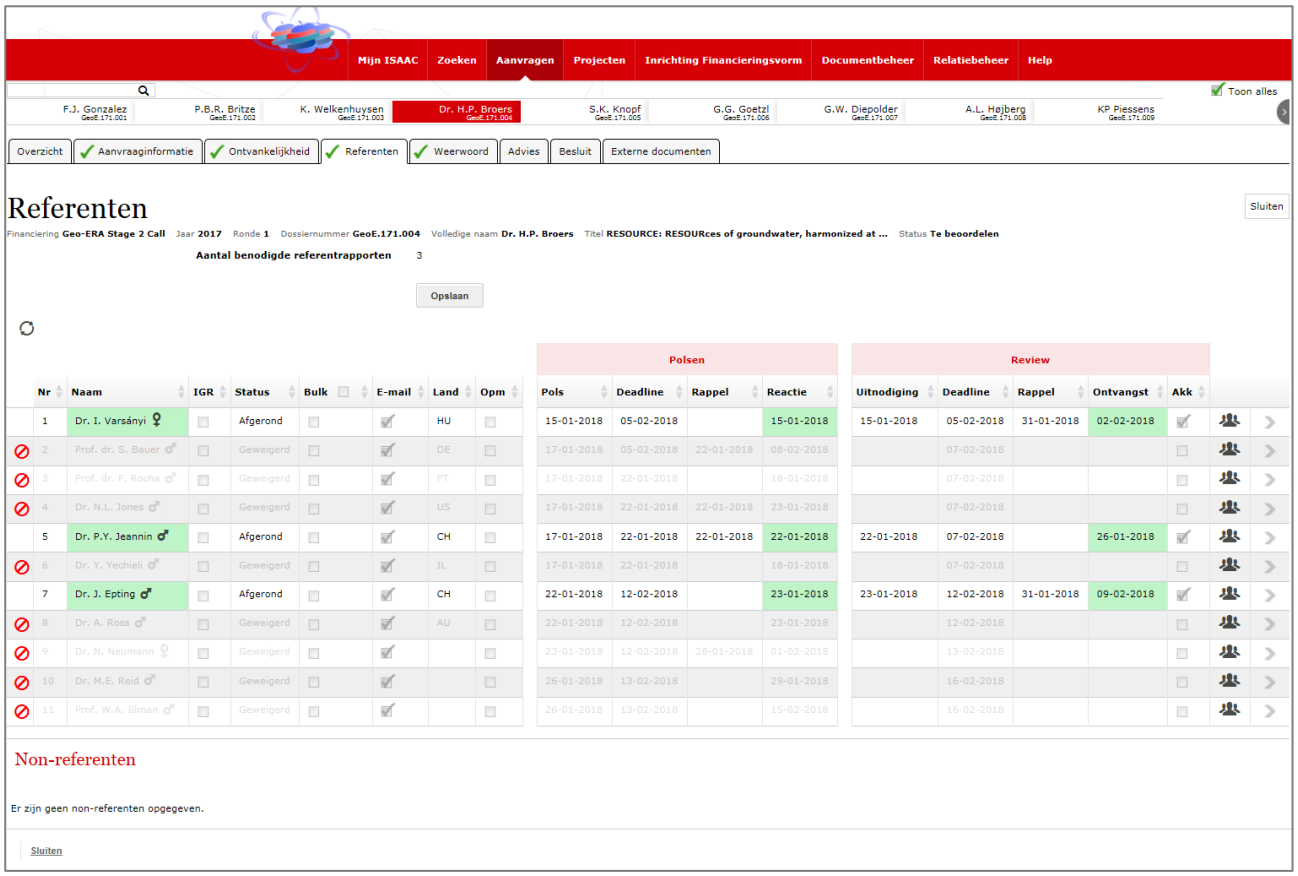
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1 Dr. I. Varsányi Afgerond HU 15-01-2018 05-02-2018 15-01-2018 15-01-2018 05-02-2018 31-01-2018 02-02-2018
2 Prof. dr. S. Bauer Geweigerd DE 17-01-2018 05-02-2018 22-01-2018 08-02-2018 07-02-2018
3 Prof. dr. F. Rocha Geweigerd PT 17-01-2018 22-01-2018 18-01-2018 07-02-2018
4 Dr. N.L. Jones Geweigerd US 17-01-2018 22-01-2018 22-01-2018 23-01-2018 07-02-2018
5 Dr. P.Y. Jeannin Afgerond CH 17-01-2018 22-01-2018 22-01-2018 22-01-2018 22-01-2018 07-02-2018 26-01-2018
6 Dr. Y. Yechieli Geweigerd IL 17-01-2018 22-01-2018 18-01-2018 07-02-2018
7 Dr. J. Epting Afgerond CH 22-01-2018 12-02-2018 23-01-2018 23-01-2018 12-02-2018 31-01-2018 09-02-2018
8 Dr. A. Ross Geweigerd AU 22-01-2018 12-02-2018 23-01-2018 12-02-2018
9 Dr. N. Neumann Geweigerd 23-01-2018 12-02-2018 26-01-2018 01-02-2018 13-02-2018
10 Dr. M.E. Reid Geweigerd 26-01-2018 13-02-2018 29-01-2018 16-02-2018
11 Prof. W.A. Illman Geweigerd 26-01-2018 13-02-2018 15-02-2018 16-02-2018
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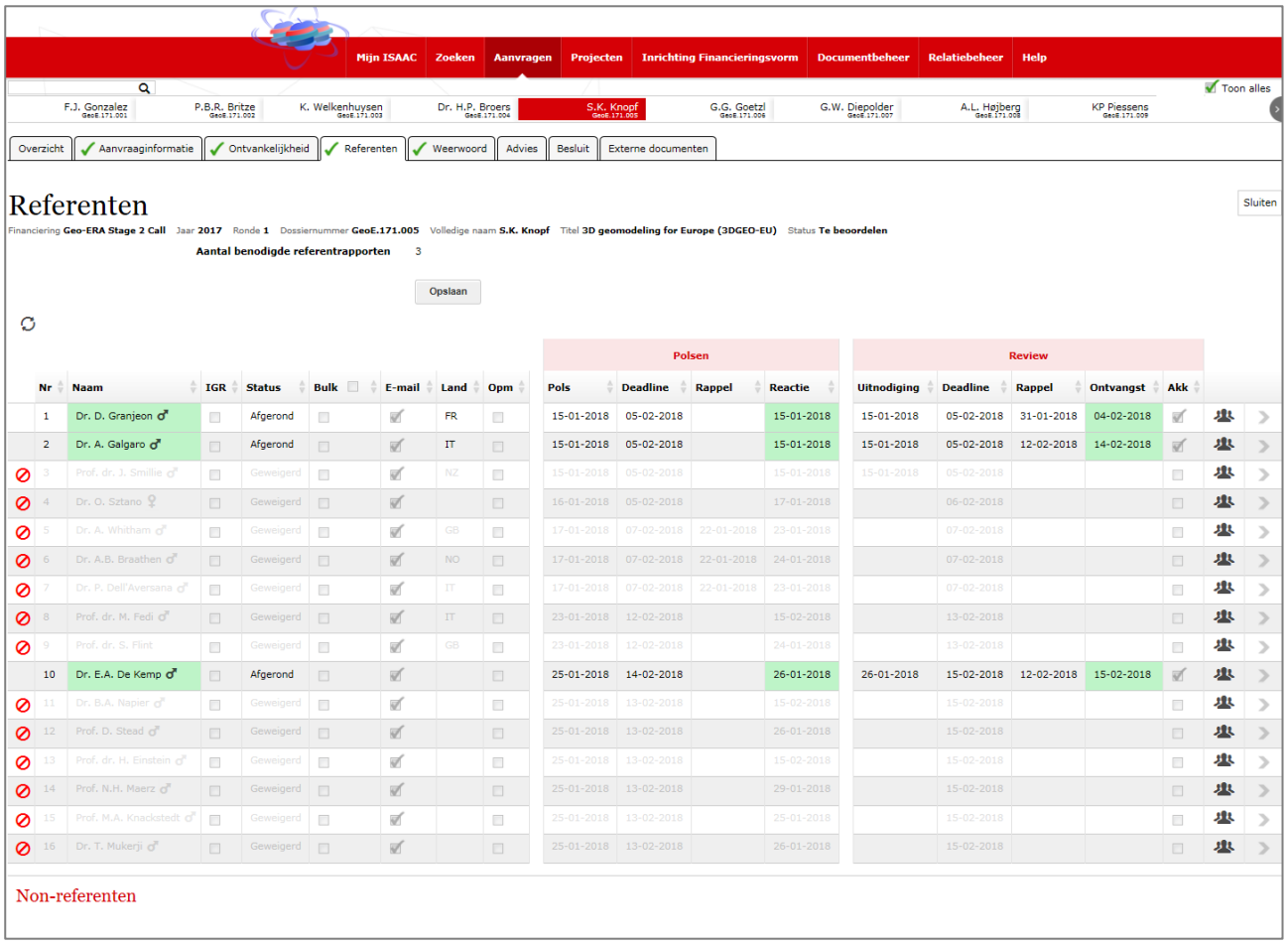
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1 Dr. D. Granjeon Afgerond FR 15-01-2018 05-02-2018 15-01-2018 15-01-2018 05-02-2018 31-01-2018 04-02-2018
2 Dr. A. Galgaro Afgerond IT 15-01-2018 05-02-2018 15-01-2018 15-01-2018 05-02-2018 12-02-2018 14-02-2018
3 Prof. dr. J. Smillie Geweigerd NZ 15-01-2018 05-02-2018 15-01-2018 15-01-2018 05-02-2018
4 Dr. O. Sztano Geweigerd 16-01-2018 05-02-2018 17-01-2018 06-02-2018
5 Dr. A. Whitham Geweigerd GB 17-01-2018 07-02-2018 22-01-2018 23-01-2018 07-02-2018
6 Dr. A.B. Braathen Geweigerd NO 17-01-2018 07-02-2018 22-01-2018 24-01-2018 07-02-2018
7 Dr. P. Dell'Aversana Geweigerd IT 17-01-2018 07-02-2018 22-01-2018 23-01-2018 07-02-2018
8 Prof. dr. M. Fedi Geweigerd IT 23-01-2018 12-02-2018 15-02-2018 13-02-2018
9 Prof. dr. S. Flint Geweigerd GB 23-01-2018 12-02-2018 24-01-2018 13-02-2018
10 Dr. E.A. De Kemp Afgerond 25-01-2018 14-02-2018 26-01-2018 26-01-2018 15-02-2018 12-02-2018 15-02-2018
11 Dr. B.A. Napier Geweigerd 25-01-2018 13-02-2018 15-02-2018 15-02-2018
12 Prof. D. Stead Geweigerd 25-01-2018 13-02-2018 26-01-2018 15-02-2018
13 Prof. dr. H. Einstein Geweigerd 25-01-2018 13-02-2018 15-02-2018 15-02-2018
14 Prof. N.H. Maerz Geweigerd 25-01-2018 13-02-2018 29-01-2018 15-02-2018
15 Prof. M.A. Knackstedt Geweigerd 25-01-2018 13-02-2018 25-01-2018 15-02-2018
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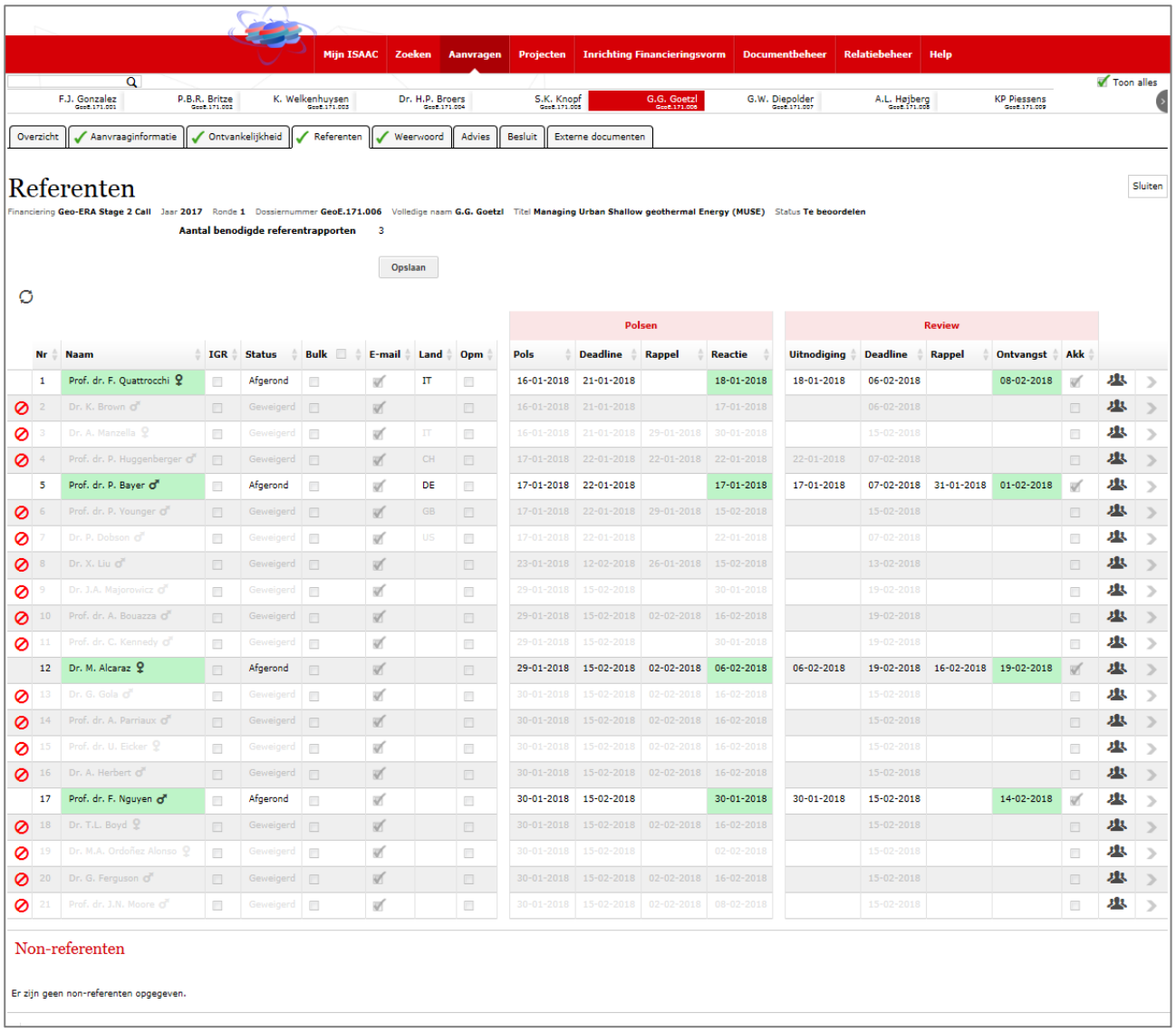
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1 Prof. dr. F. Quattrocchi Afgerond IT 16-01-2018 21-01-2018 18-01-2018 18-01-2018 06-02-2018 08-02-2018
2 Dr. K. Brown Geweigerd 16-01-2018 21-01-2018 17-01-2018 06-02-2018
3 Dr. A. Manzella Geweigerd IT 16-01-2018 21-01-2018 29-01-2018 30-01-2018 15-02-2018
4 Prof. dr. P. Huggenberger Geweigerd CH 17-01-2018 22-01-2018 22-01-2018 22-01-2018 22-01-2018 07-02-2018
5 Prof. dr. P. Bayer Afgerond DE 17-01-2018 22-01-2018 17-01-2018 17-01-2018 07-02-2018 31-01-2018 01-02-2018
6 Prof. dr. P. Younger Geweigerd GB 17-01-2018 22-01-2018 29-01-2018 15-02-2018 15-02-2018
7 Dr. P. Dobson Geweigerd US 17-01-2018 22-01-2018 22-01-2018 07-02-2018
8 Dr. X. Liu Geweigerd 23-01-2018 12-02-2018 26-01-2018 15-02-2018 13-02-2018
9 Dr. J.A. Majorowicz Geweigerd 29-01-2018 15-02-2018 30-01-2018 19-02-2018
10 Prof. dr. A. Bouazza Geweigerd 29-01-2018 15-02-2018 02-02-2018 16-02-2018 19-02-2018
11 Prof. dr. C. Kennedy Geweigerd 29-01-2018 15-02-2018 30-01-2018 19-02-2018
12 Dr. M. Alcaraz Afgerond 29-01-2018 15-02-2018 02-02-2018 06-02-2018 06-02-2018 19-02-2018 16-02-2018 19-02-2018
13 Dr. G. Gola Geweigerd 30-01-2018 15-02-2018 02-02-2018 16-02-2018 15-02-2018
14 Prof. dr. A. Parriaux Geweigerd 30-01-2018 15-02-2018 02-02-2018 16-02-2018 15-02-2018
15 Prof. dr. U. Eicker Geweigerd 30-01-2018 15-02-2018 02-02-2018 16-02-2018 15-02-2018
16 Dr. A. Herbert Geweigerd 30-01-2018 15-02-2018 02-02-2018 16-02-2018 15-02-2018
17 Prof. dr. F. Nguyen Afgerond 30-01-2018 15-02-2018 30-01-2018 30-01-2018 15-02-2018 14-02-2018
18 Dr. T.L. Boyd Geweigerd 30-01-2018 15-02-2018 02-02-2018 16-02-2018 15-02-2018
19 Dr. M.A. Ordoñez Alonso Geweigerd 30-01-2018 15-02-2018 02-02-2018 15-02-2018
20 Dr. G. Ferguson Geweigerd 30-01-2018 15-02-2018 02-02-2018 16-02-2018 15-02-2018
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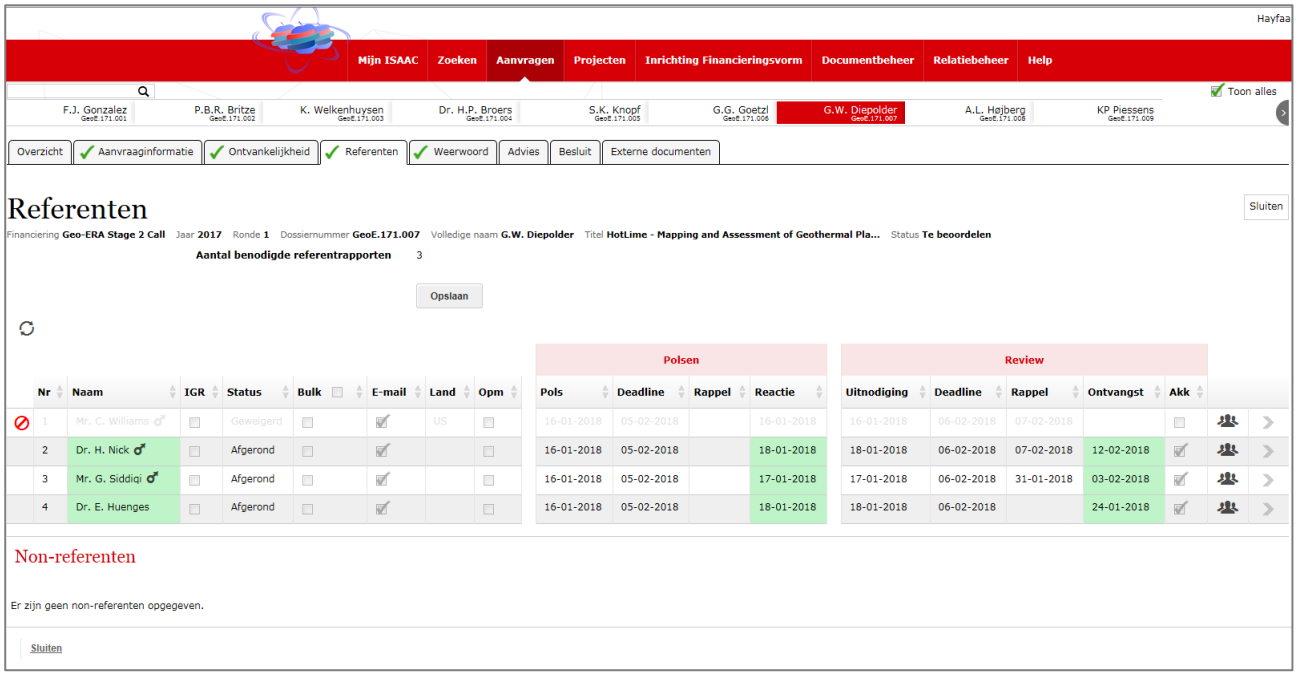
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1 Mr. C. Williams Geweigerd US 16-01-2018 05-02-2018 16-01-2018 16-01-2018 06-02-2018 07-02-2018
2 Dr. H. Nick Afgerond 16-01-2018 05-02-2018 18-01-2018 18-01-2018 06-02-2018 07-02-2018 12-02-2018
3 Mr. G. Siddiqi Afgerond 16-01-2018 05-02-2018 17-01-2018 17-01-2018 06-02-2018 31-01-2018 03-02-2018
4 Dr. E. Huenges Afgerond 16-01-2018 05-02-2018 18-01-2018 18-01-2018 06-02-2018 24-01-2018
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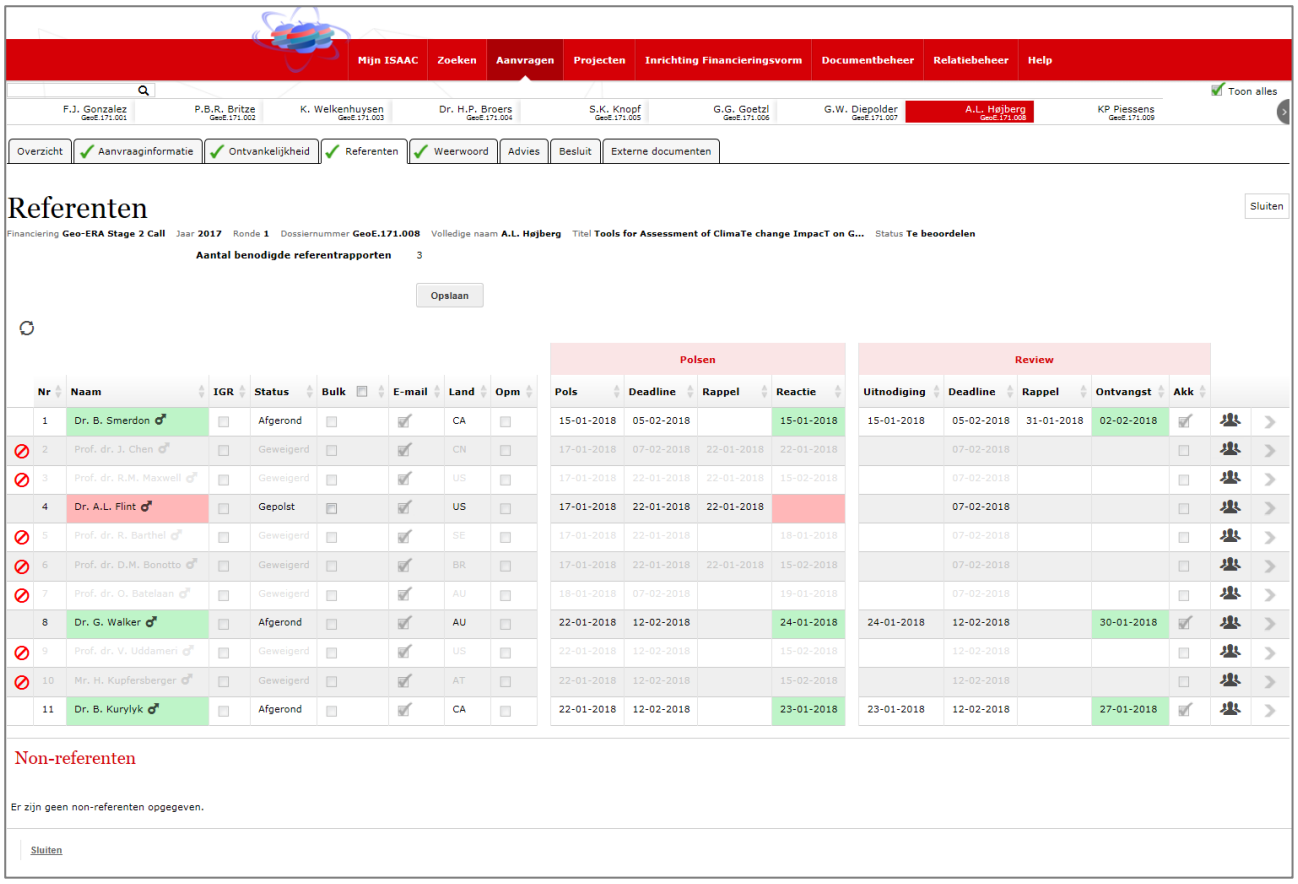
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1 Dr. B. Smerdon Afgerond CA 15-01-2018 05-02-2018 15-01-2018 15-01-2018 05-02-2018 31-01-2018 02-02-2018
2 Prof. dr. J. Chen Geweigerd CN 17-01-2018 07-02-2018 22-01-2018 22-01-2018 07-02-2018
3 Prof. dr. R.M. Maxwell Geweigerd US 17-01-2018 22-01-2018 22-01-2018 15-02-2018 07-02-2018
4 Dr. A.L. Flint Gepolst US 17-01-2018 22-01-2018 22-01-2018 07-02-2018
5 Prof. dr. R. Barthel Geweigerd SE 17-01-2018 22-01-2018 18-01-2018 07-02-2018
6 Prof. dr. D.M. Bonotto Geweigerd BR 17-01-2018 22-01-2018 22-01-2018 15-02-2018 07-02-2018
7 Prof. dr. O. Batelaan Geweigerd AU 18-01-2018 07-02-2018 19-01-2018 07-02-2018
8 Dr. G. Walker Afgerond AU 22-01-2018 12-02-2018 24-01-2018 24-01-2018 12-02-2018 30-01-2018
9 Prof. dr. V. Uddameri Geweigerd US 22-01-2018 12-02-2018 15-02-2018 12-02-2018
10 Mr. H. Kupfersberger Geweigerd AT 22-01-2018 12-02-2018 15-02-2018 12-02-2018
11 Dr. B. Kurylyk Afgerond CA 22-01-2018 12-02-2018 23-01-2018 23-01-2018 12-02-2018 27-01-2018
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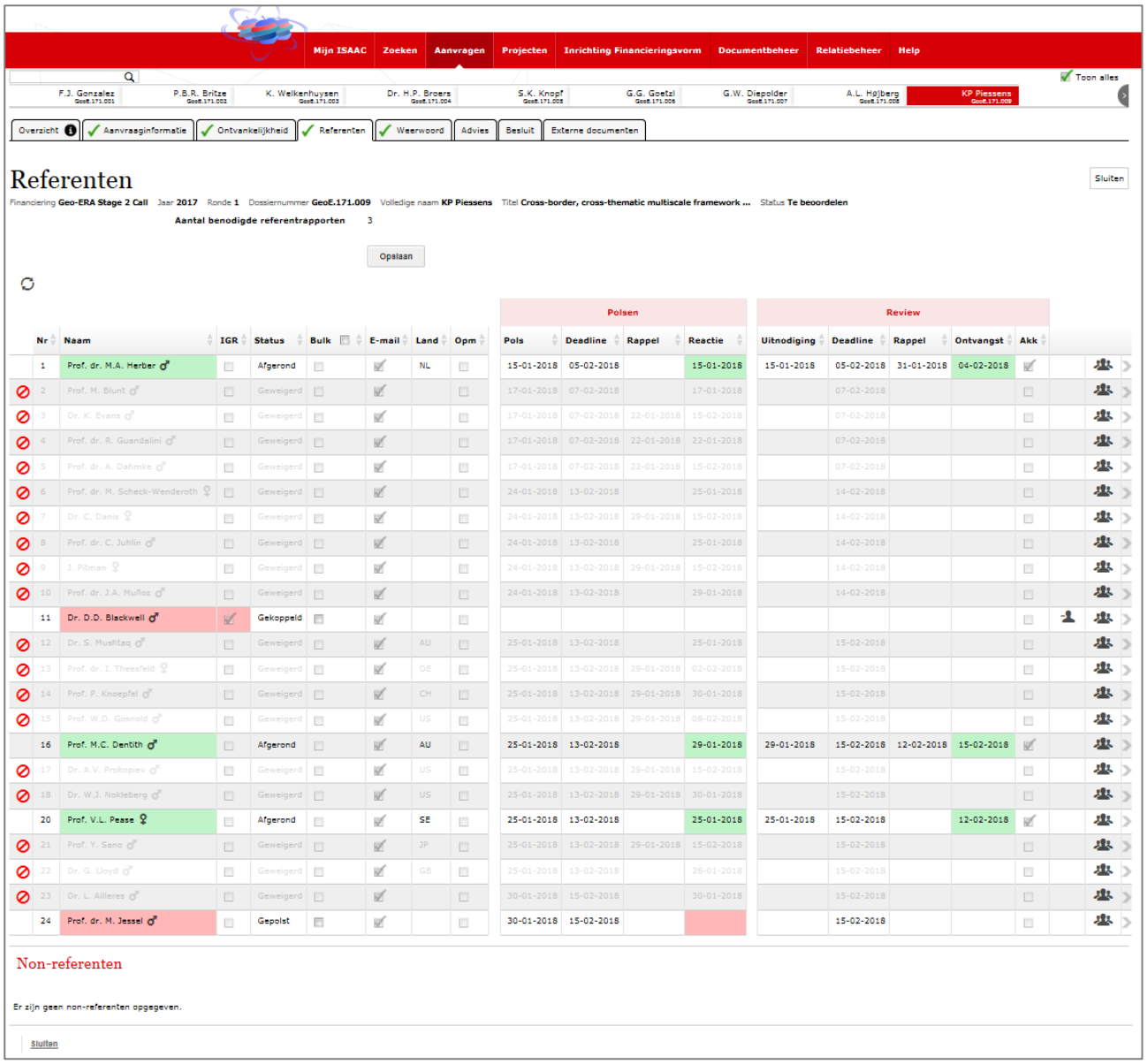
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2 Prof. M. Blunt Geweigerd 17-01-2018 07-02-2018 17-01-2018 07-02-2018
3 Dr. K. Evans Geweigerd 17-01-2018 07-02-2018 22-01-2018 15-02-2018 07-02-2018
4 Prof. dr. R. Guandalini Geweigerd 17-01-2018 07-02-2018 22-01-2018 22-01-2018 07-02-2018
5 Prof. dr. A. Dahmke Geweigerd 17-01-2018 07-02-2018 22-01-2018 15-02-2018 07-02-2018
6 Prof. dr. M. Scheck-Wenderoth Geweigerd 24-01-2018 13-02-2018 25-01-2018 14-02-2018
7 Dr. C. Danis Geweigerd 24-01-2018 13-02-2018 29-01-2018 15-02-2018 14-02-2018
8 Prof. dr. C. Juhlin Geweigerd 24-01-2018 13-02-2018 25-01-2018 14-02-2018
9 J. Pitman Geweigerd 24-01-2018 13-02-2018 29-01-2018 15-02-2018 14-02-2018
10 Prof. dr. J.A. Muñoz Geweigerd 24-01-2018 13-02-2018 29-01-2018 14-02-2018
11 Dr. D.D. Blackwell Gekoppeld
12 Dr. S. Mushtaq Geweigerd AU 25-01-2018 13-02-2018 25-01-2018 15-02-2018
13 Prof. dr. I. Theesfeld Geweigerd DE 25-01-2018 13-02-2018 29-01-2018 02-02-2018 15-02-2018
14 Prof. P. Knoepfel Geweigerd CH 25-01-2018 13-02-2018 29-01-2018 30-01-2018 15-02-2018
15 Prof. W.D. Gosnold Geweigerd US 25-01-2018 13-02-2018 29-01-2018 08-02-2018 15-02-2018
16 Prof. M.C. Dentith Afgerond AU 25-01-2018 13-02-2018 29-01-2018 29-01-2018 15-02-2018 12-02-2018 15-02-2018
17 Dr. A.V. Prokopiev Geweigerd US 25-01-2018 13-02-2018 29-01-2018 15-02-2018 15-02-2018
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20 Prof. V.L. Pease Afgerond SE 25-01-2018 13-02-2018 25-01-2018 25-01-2018 15-02-2018 12-02-2018
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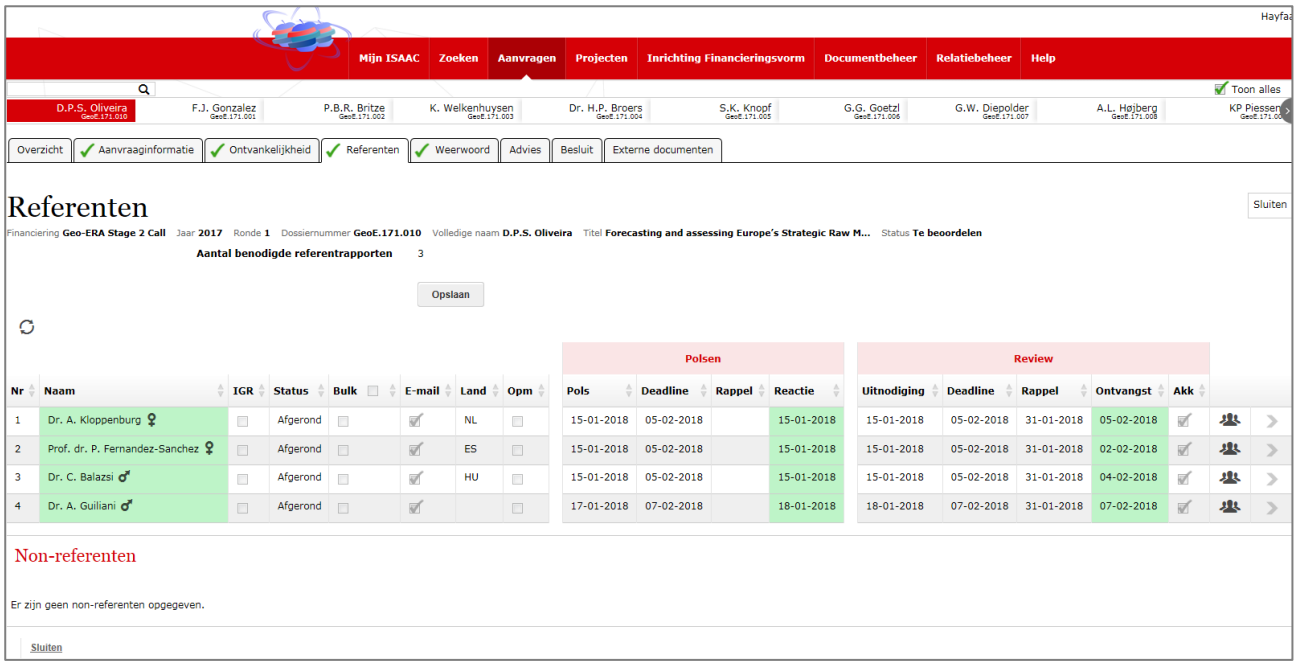
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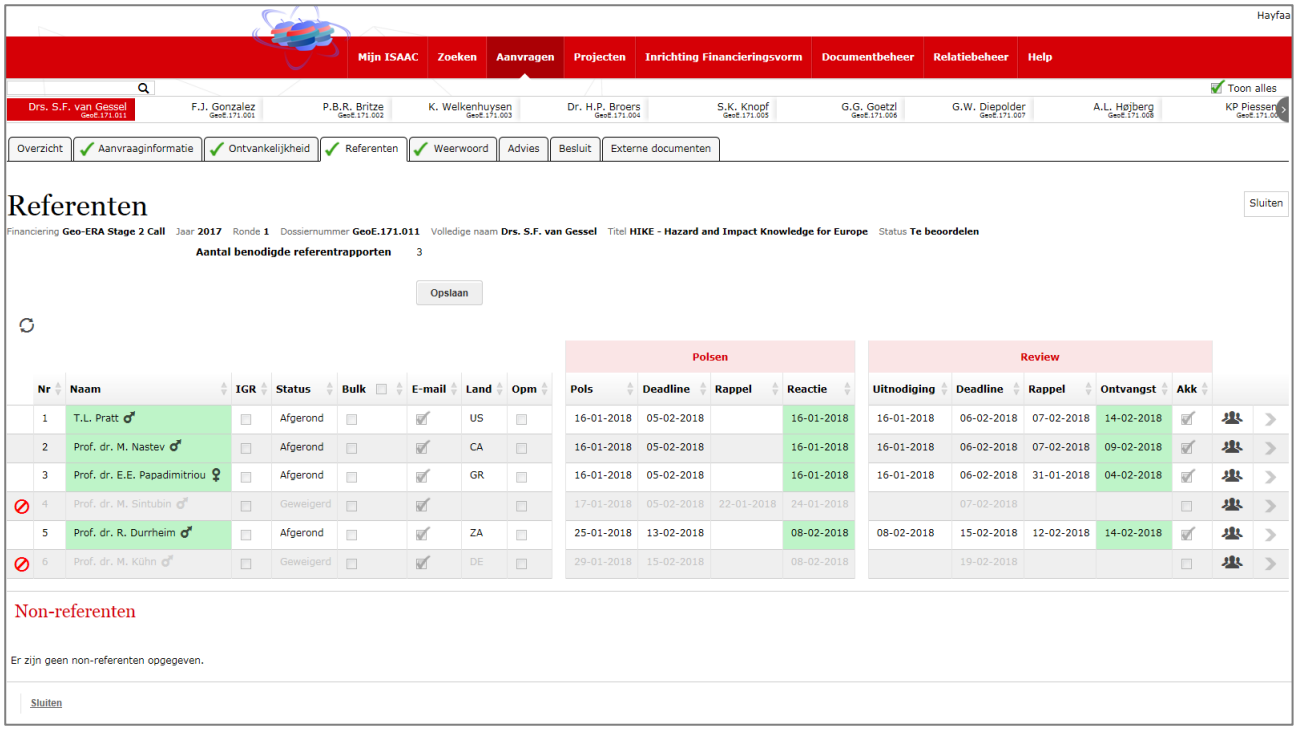
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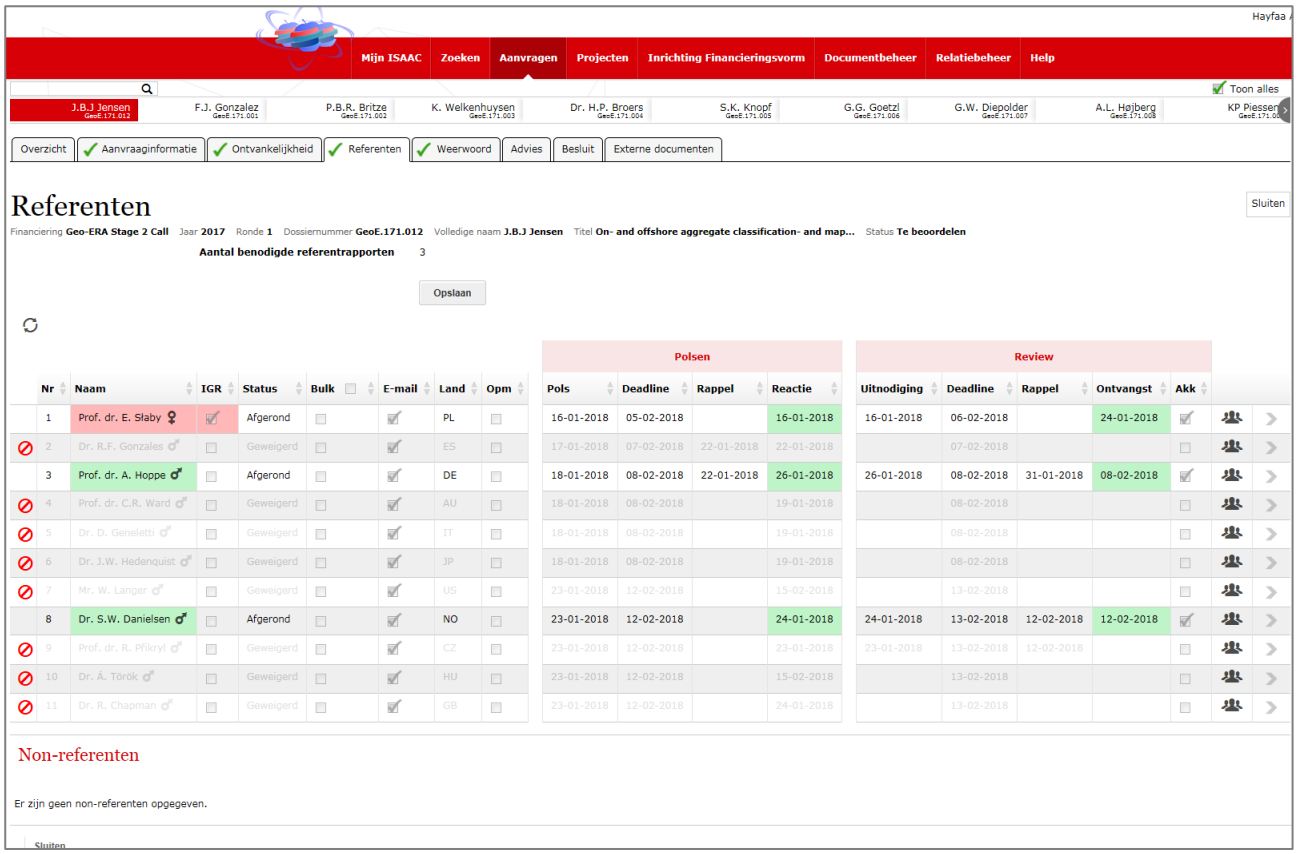
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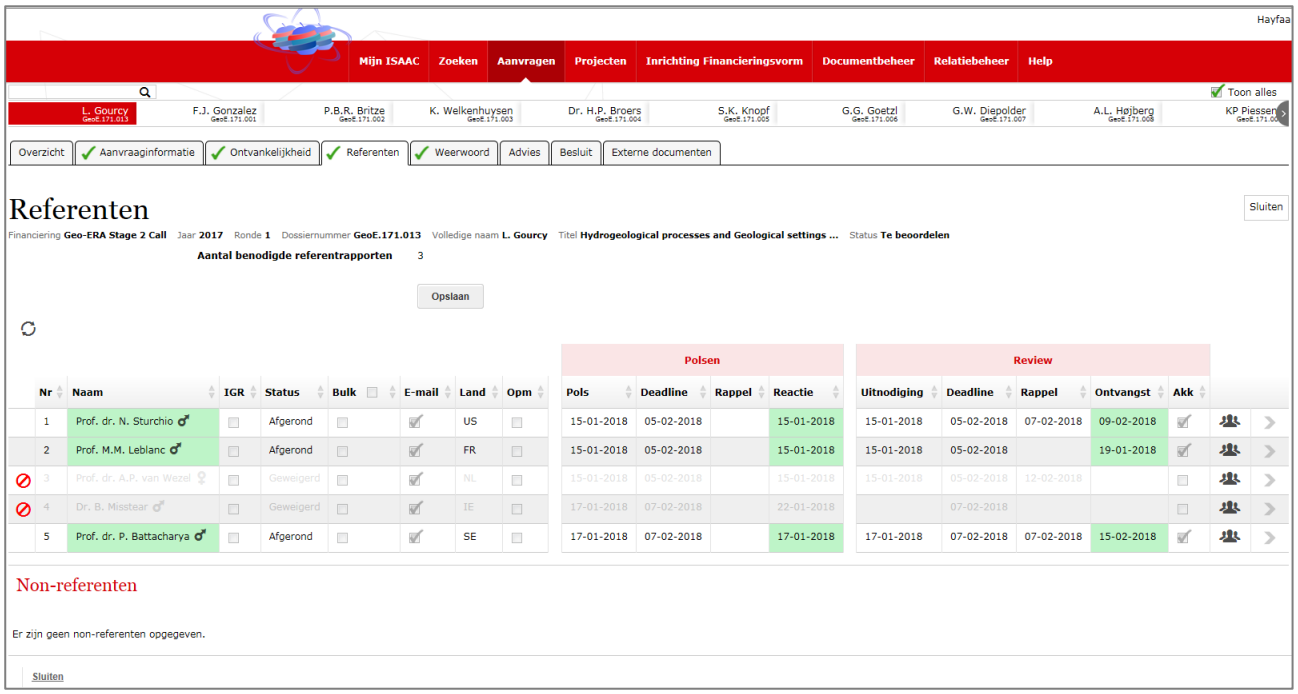
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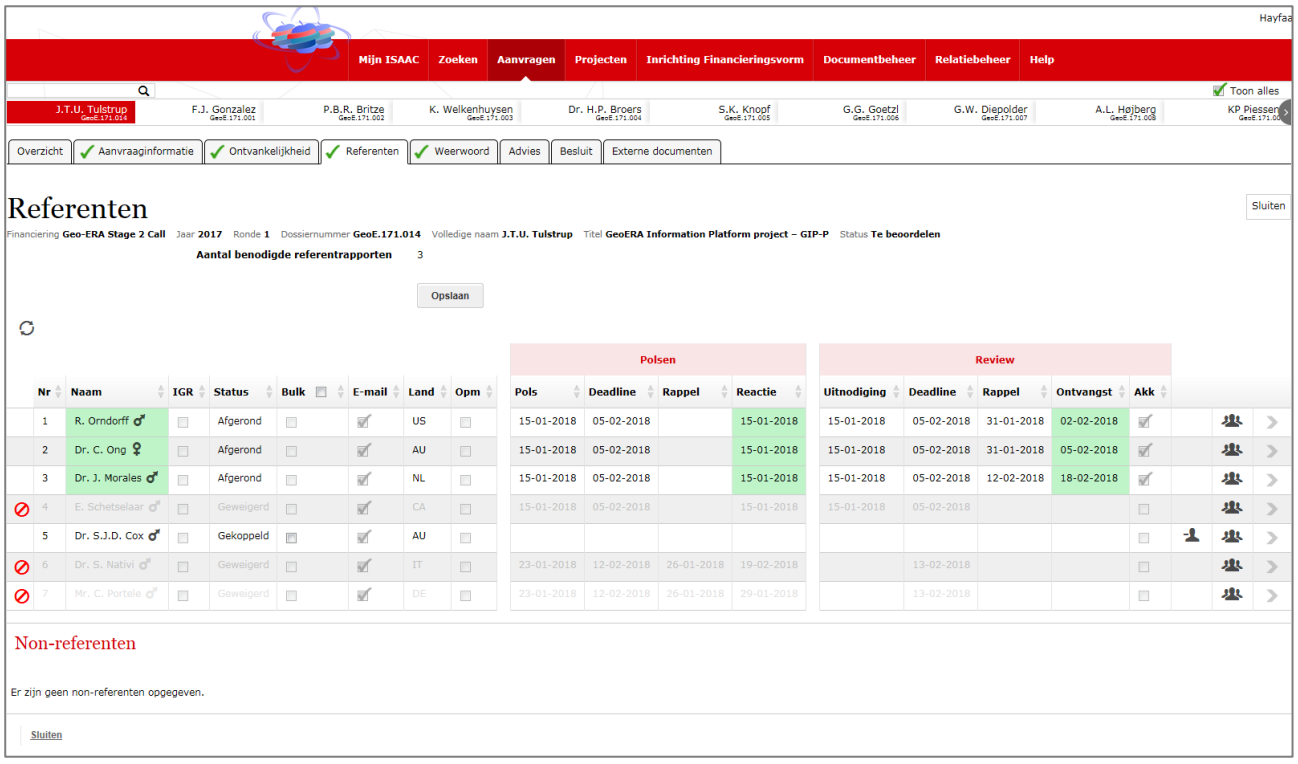
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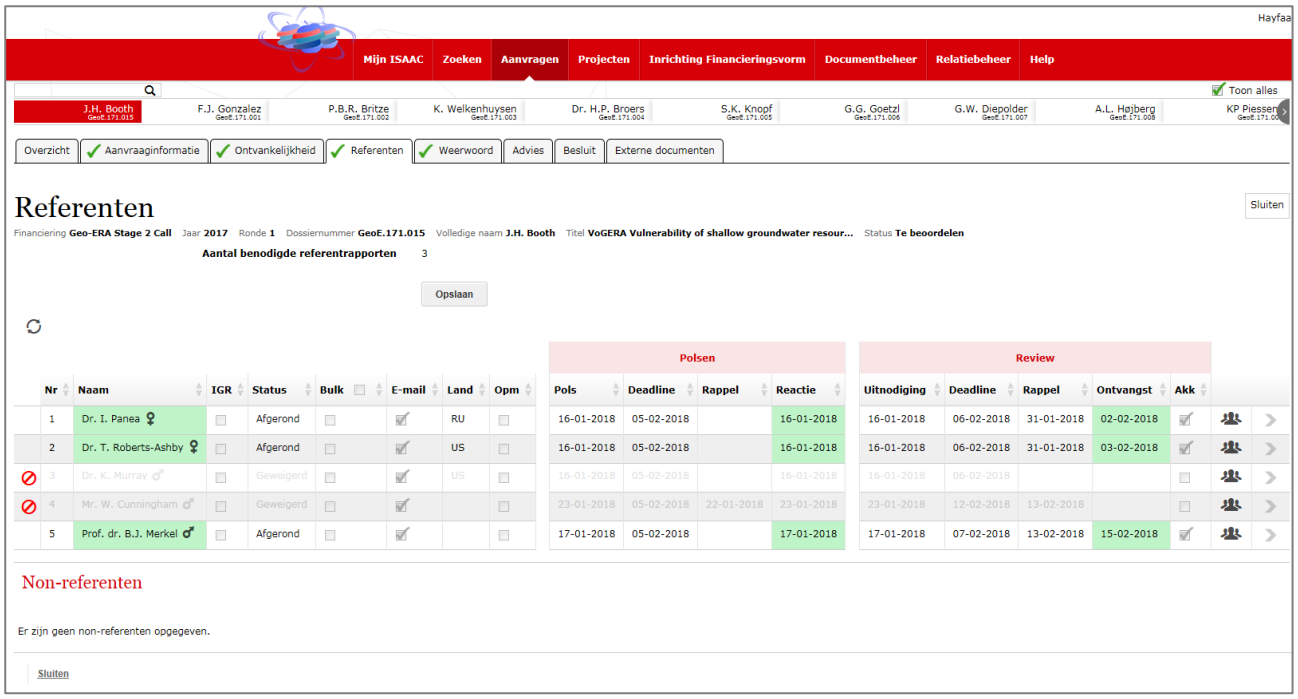
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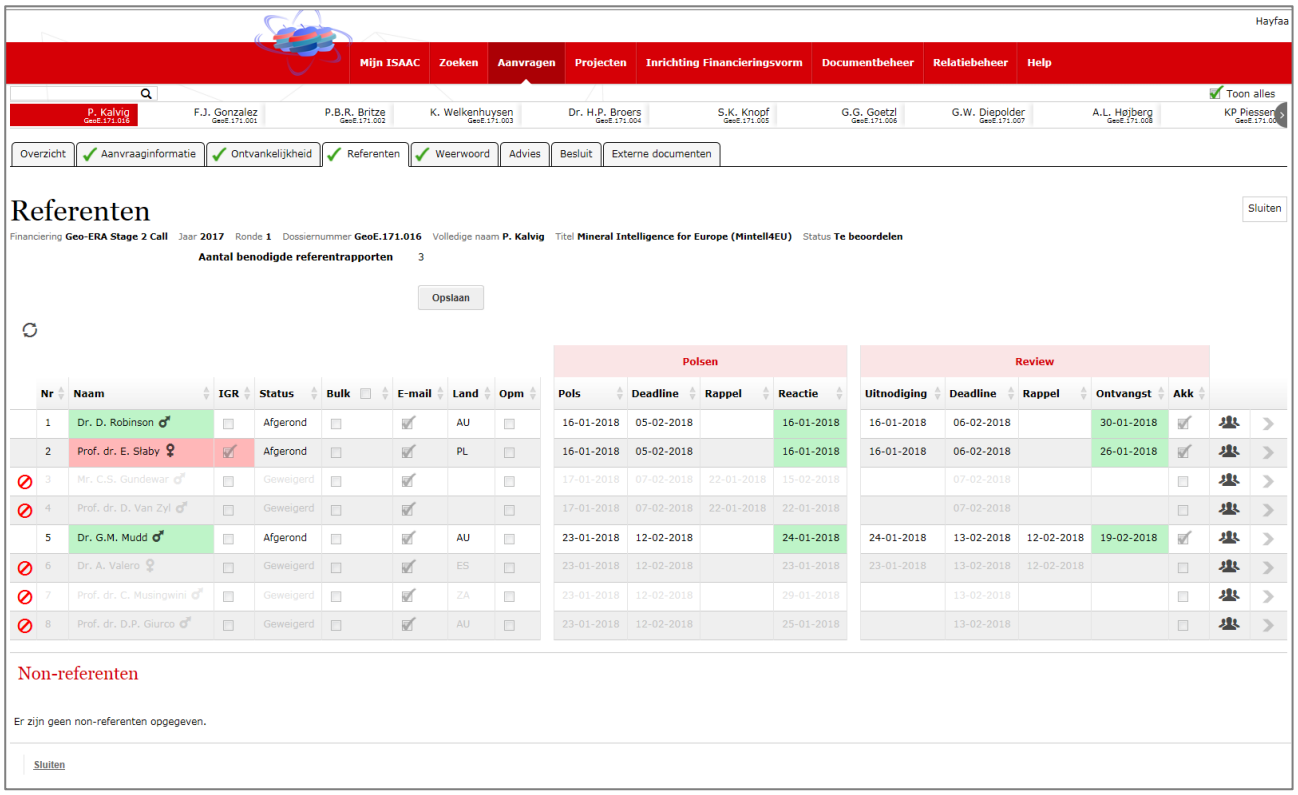
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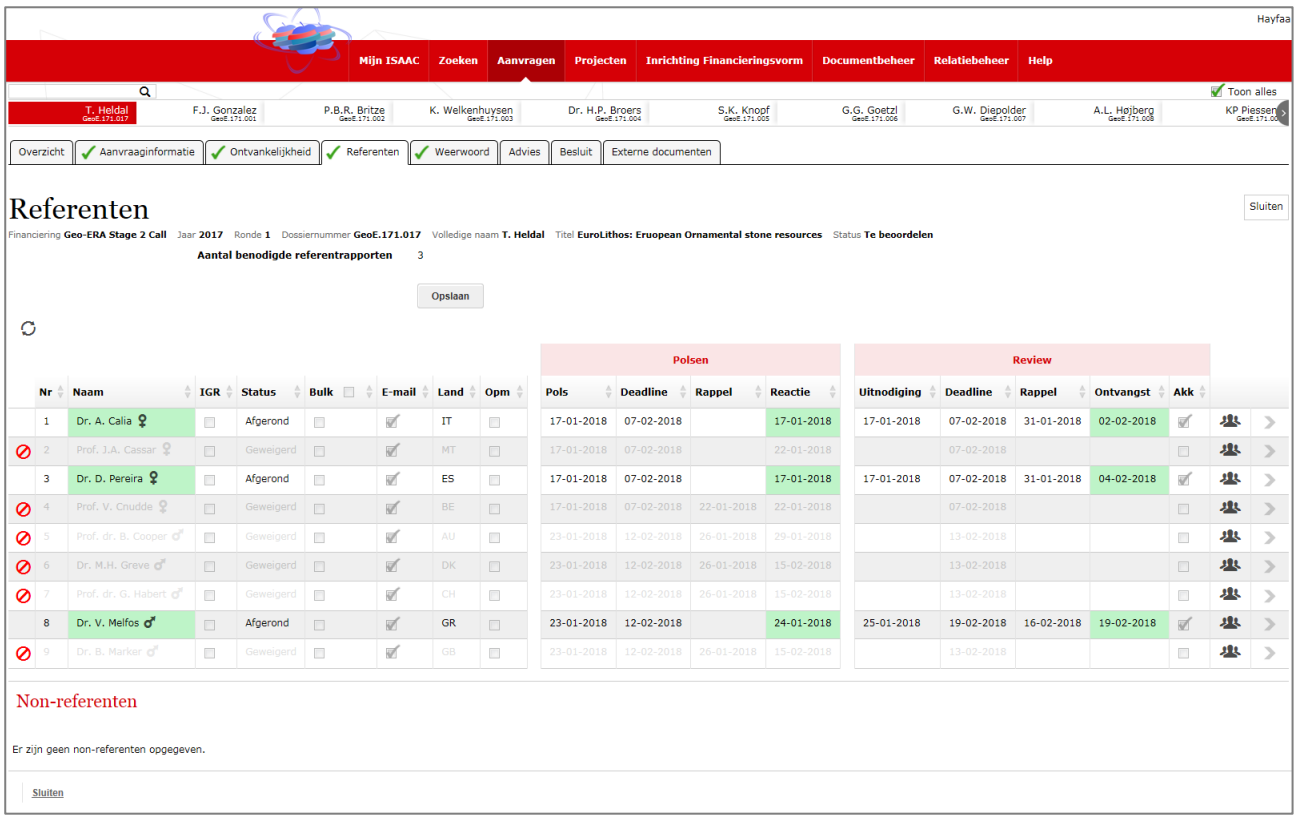
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ANNEX C

Establishing the European Geological Surveys Research Area to deliver a Geological Service for Europe

STATUS REPORT

Consensus Report of the GeoERA Independent Expert Panel Meeting

Authors and affiliation:
Hayfaa Abdul Aziz

[NWO]

E-mail of lead author:
h.abdulaziz@nwo.nl
Version: 26-03-2018

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This report describes the 1-day Independent Expert Panel Evaluation Meeting held in the NWO Offices in The Hague, the Netherlands on Wednesday March 21st 2018, where 17 proposals for the GeoERA Stage Two Call were finally evaluated, scored and ranked.

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INTRODUCTION

A total of number of 17 proposals were submitted to the GeoERA Stage Two Call for proposals. No proposals were submitted to the following two Specific Research Themes (SRT): GE4 ‘Energy Storage’ and RM5 ‘Raw Materials Modelling and interactions with energy and groundwater’. In addition, no more proposals were received per SRT than expected in Call Document No JC 9.

The proposal was reviewed in a two-step procedure; first by technical expert that did an online review; next at an Expert Panel Meeting where (other) independent experts achieved consensus on scores of the individual proposals and reached a ranking list.

1 EVALUATION AND RANKING PROCESS

All proposals were submitted well within the deadline of 12th of January 2018 at 17:00hrs CET to NWO's online submission and evaluation system ISAAC. A timeline of the review and evaluation procedure is reflected in Figure 1. The proposals were checked against the eligibility criteria as set out in Joint Call Document No. 7.

After the eligibility check the proposals were sent out to the technical reviewers. At least three technical experts were selected using the criteria as set out in the Joint Call Document No. 8:

- *skills, experience and knowledge*
- *geographical diversity*
- *gender*
- *where appropriate, the private and public sectors'*

The technical experts have a narrower focus and deeper knowledge on the specific topics of the proposal than compared to the Independent Experts that have a seat in the Independent Expert Panel. After receipt of the technical review reports, each proposal was presented to the Independent Expert Panel with at least three reviews of technical experts. Note that the selection of the Independent Experts was based on the same criteria when selecting the technical experts, but the Independent Experts have a broader expertise with more focus on the call topics. Note that the technical experts were also independent.

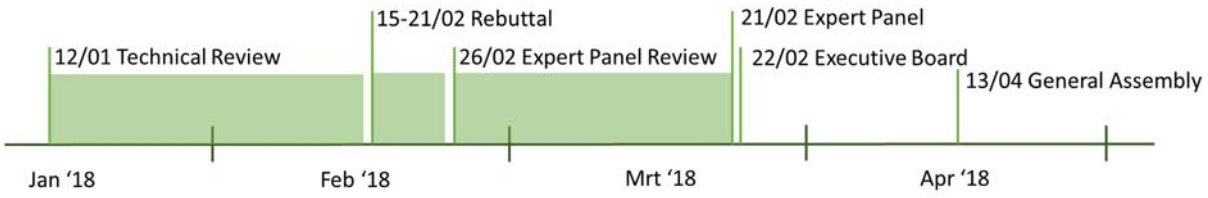

Figure 1: Timeline of the review and evaluation procedure

The 1-day Independent Expert Panel Evaluation Meeting was held in the NWO Offices in The Hague, the Netherlands on Wednesday March 21, 2018, to give the panel the opportunity for clarifications. The composition of the Independent Expert Panel can be found in Table 1.

At the Independent Experts review meeting, the experts agreed on consensus scores and comments for each evaluation criterion, based on their individual review, which they sent to NWO prior to the meeting. Each evaluation criterion was marked out of five. The threshold for the individual evaluation criteria is three, and the overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual marks, is 10. If a proposal scored less than the overall threshold of 10, it cannot be funded. For the Independent Expert meeting, the aim was to have three Independent Experts per theme. Two experts attended the meeting online through a *Webex* connection.

There were two exceptions within the followed procedure:

- The day prior to the meeting one expert from the Raw Materials theme could not attend because he called in sick. This expert did review the proposals and submitted the individual review scores. Since it would be impossible to arrange a new expert, the consensus scores where based on the

discussion of only the two experts, who based it on the individual review of all the three experts. This solution was discussed and agreed by GeoERA's Program Manager.

- During the meeting, one of the experts from the GeoEnergy theme, who joined online, did join the entire discussion, but had to leave the meeting prematurely and consequently was unable to approve the final consensus score for the Geoconnect3D proposal. Therefore, the score for this proposal is based on the consensus between the two remaining experts.

The result of the Independent Expert Panel Meeting is that all 17 submitted proposals scored above the threshold of 10, see table 2. Proposals with equal scores within a theme are to be prioritised by the GeoERA Executive Board.

Table 1: Composition of the GeoERA Independent Expert Panel.

Theme	Expert	Email	Institute/Organisation
Geo-Energy (GE)	Prof. Dr. Stefan Wiemer*	stefan.wiemer@sed.ethz.ch	Schweiz. Erdbebendienst (SED), ETHZ, Dept. of Earth Sciences, **Switzerland**
	Prof. Dr. Jon Gluyas	j.g.gluyas@durham.ac.uk	Executive Director of Durham Energy Institute (DEI) in the Durham Energy Institute AND Dong/Ikon Chair in Geoenergy, Carbon Capture & Storage in the Department of Earth Sciences, **United Kingdom**
	Prof. Dr. Reinhard Sachsenhofer	reinhard.sachsenhofer@unileoben.ac.at	Montanuniversitat Leoben, Department of Applied Geosciences and Geophysics, Leoben, **Austria**
Groundwater (GW)	Dr. Florence Habets	florence.habets@upmc.fr	Milieux Environnementaux, Transferts et Interactions dans les Hydrosystemes et les Sols, Paris, **France**
	Prof. Dr. Milena Horvat*	milena.horvat@ijs.si	Head of Department, Department of Environmental Sciences, Jozef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, **Slovenia**
	Prof. Dr. Mario Schirmer	mario.schirmer@eawag.ch	Associate Professor Centre for Hydrogeology, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland AND Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, Dubendorf, **Switzerland**
Raw Materials (RM)	Dr. Santiago Cuesta-Lopez	director.iccram@ubu.es	Director ICCRAM (International Research Center in CRMs for Advanced Industrial Technologies), University of Burgos, **Spain**
	Prof. Em. Dr. Walter Pohl*	walter@walter-pohl.com	Sr. Consultant: Economic Geology, Related Geological, Environmental & Water Management, and Social Reconciliation, **Austria**
	Prof. Dr. Olav (Joffi) Eklund	olav.eklund@abo.fi	Head of Department of Geology and Mineralogy, Abo Akademi University, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Abo, **Finland**
Information Platform (IP)	David Howard	david.howard@dmirs.wa.gov.au	Chief Geophysicist in the Geological Survey of Western Australia, Government of Western Australia, Department of Mines industry Regulation and Safety, **Australia**
	Dr. Paul Duller*	paul.duller@tribalgroup.com	Director of Consulting, Tribal Group plc, **United Kingdom**
	Prof. em. Dr. Roland Oberhänsli	roob@geo.uni-potsdam.de	University of Potsdam, Institute of Earth and Environmental Science, **Germany**

Table 2. The scores and ranking (within each theme) of the proposals submitted to the GeoERA Stage Two Call.

Proposal no.	Acronym	Rank	Criterion I - Excellence	Criterion II - Impact	Criterion III - Implementation	Total score	SRT	Requested budget (€)
GeoE.171.014	GIP-P	1	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	IP1	3,860,804
GeoE.171.013	HOVER	1	5	4.5	5	14.5	GW1	2,999,814
GeoE.171.008	TACTIC	2	4.5	4.5	4.5	13.5	GW2	1,799,979
GeoE.171.004	RESOURces	3	3.5	4	4	11.5	GW3	2,465,654
GeoE.171.015	VoGERA	4	3.5	4	4	11.5	GW4	433,781
GeoE.171.001	MINDeSEA	1	3.5	4	4,5	12	RM3	783,285
GeoE.171.016	Mintell4EU	2	4	3	5	12	RM1	2,859,159
GeoE.171.017	EuroLithos	3	4	3	4	11	RM2	1,100,357
GeoE.171.010	FRAME	4	3.5	3	4	10.5	RM4	3,139,634
GeoE.171.012	AGRRE-GRADES	5	3	3	4.5	10.5	RM2	1,936,616
GeoE.171.006	MUSE	1	4.5	4	4.5	13	GE2	1,313,260
GeoE.171.007	HotLime	2	4	4	4	12	GE2	1,658,728
GeoE.171.011	HIKE	3	4	4	4	12	GE4	1,620,649
GeoE.171.005	3DGEO-EU	4	4	3.5	4	11.5	GE5	3,651,677
GeoE.171.009	GeoConnect^{3}d	5	4	3.5	4	11.5	GE6	1,827,753
GeoE.171.002	GARAH	6	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	GE1	1,060,707
GeoE.171.003	Geo4Sure	7	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	GE2	974,719

ANNEX D

Establishing the European Geological Surveys Research Area to deliver a Geological Service for Europe

STATUS REPORT

Final ranking list

Authors and affiliation:
Lisbeth Flindt Jørgensen
[GEUS]

E-mail of lead author:
lfj@geus.dk

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This report describes the outcome of the Executive Board meeting, held in The Hauge, The Netherlands, on Thursday March 22nd. The main purpose of the meeting was to set up recommendations for selection of proposals for funding, following the Independent Expert Panel Meeting the day before, also in The Hague.

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3 RANKING NON-FUNDED PROPOSALS AND UTILIZING THE REMAINING BUDGET 8

INTRODUCTION

On March 21st 2018 the 17 proposal that came out of the Stage Two Call of GeoERA were evaluated by independent experts at a Expert Panel Meeting in The Hague, The Netherlands. The meeting was held at the office of and facilitated by The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) and resulted in a ranking list.

The GeoERA Executive Board met at March 22nd, also in The Hague (at the TNO office), to set up recommendation for funding of proposals based the ranking list and the available funding within each theme. This recommendation will be presented to the GeoERA General Assembly April 13th in Vienna.

The timeline of the review and evaluation procedure is presented in Figure 1 below.

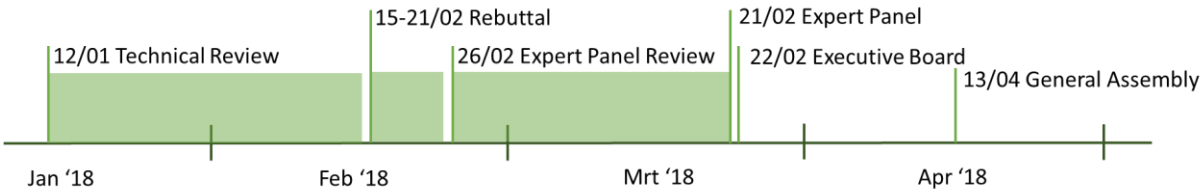

Figure 1: Timeline of the review and evaluation procedure

1 CONSOLIDATING THE RANKING LIST

As mentioned above, some proposals scored equally. To determine their ranking, the Executive Board used the criteria as set out in Joint Call Document No. 8 (paragraph 3.5):

1. *Project Proposals that address topics, or sub-topics, not otherwise covered by more highly ranked proposals, will be considered to have the highest priority.*
2. *The Project Proposals identified under (a), if any, will themselves be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion impact. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion excellence.*
3. *If necessary, any further prioritisation will be based on the following factors, in order:*
    a. *involvement of GeoERA participants who are otherwise not involved in successful proposals;*
    b. *synergies between projects within or across themes;*
    c. *or other factors related to the objectives of the GeoERA call.*

Within the GeoEnergy and the Raw Materials themes, the above criteria are applied only for the lowest ranked proposals, as all proposals cannot be recommended for funding due to budgetary constraints:

GeoEnergy:

The proposals GARAH and GEO4SURE both reached a consensus score of 10.5 and need to be prioritised. Using the first criterion: "*Project Proposals that address topics, or sub-topics, not otherwise covered by more highly ranked proposals, will be considered to have the highest priority"*, the GARAH proposal is ranked above the Geo4SURE proposal. The GEO4SURE proposal was submitted to SRT GE2 'Geothermal Energy', of which the Hotlime and MUSE proposals reached a higher ranking implying that this GE2 SRT topic has already been addressed. On the contrary, SRT GE1 'Fossil Energy, Energy Security and Climate Change' has not yet been addressed. As a result, the GARAH proposal is identified to have a higher priority.

Additionally, the consensus scores for the criterion *Impact* and criterion *Excellence* where compared. Both proposals score equally for the two evaluation criteria *Impact* and *Excellence* (namely 3.5).

Raw Materials:

The proposals AGGRE-GRADES and FRAME both reached a consensus score of 10.5 and need to be prioritised. Using the first criterion: ´*Project Proposals that address topics, or sub-topics, not otherwise covered by more highly ranked proposals, will be considered to have the highest priority´*, the FRAME proposal is ranked above the AGGRE-GRADES proposal. The AGGRE-GRADES proposal was submitted to SRT RM2 ´Construction Material´, where the EuroLithos proposal was also submitted. The EuroLithos proposal was higher ranked indicating that the RM2 SRT topic has already been addressed. On the contrary, SRT RM4 ´Forecasting and assessing Europe's Strategic Raw Materials needs´ has not yet been addressed. As a result, the Executive Board identifies the FRAME proposal to have a higher priority.

Additionally, the consensus scores for the criterion *Impact* and criterion *Excellence* where compared. The *Impact* scores for both proposals are equal (both have a consensus score of 3). The *Excellence* consensus score for FRAME is 3.5 whereas for AGGRE-GRADES the score is 3.

2 SELECTION OF PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING

The available budget for the Call of Proposals is 30,3M EUR, divided over the four different Themes, as indicated in Table 2.

Table 2: Available budget (inkind funding + EC Cofund) per theme

	Call Theme	Budget
GeoERA co-funded call for transnational proposals	Geo-energy	EUR 10,3 million
	Groundwater	EUR 7,7 million
	Raw Materials	EUR 8,4 million
	Information Platform	EUR 3,9 million
	Total	**EUR 30,3 million**

In the following, the proposals recommended for funding are listed per theme:

Information Platform

Only one proposal, GIP-P, was submitted to the Information Platform IP1 ´Development of an information platform to support management and provision of data for the three other themes´. This proposal requested EUR 3,860,804 of the EUR 3,900,000 budget available and is recommended for funding. There is a left over budget available of EUR 39,196 (see Table 1).

Groundwater

Four proposals where submitted to the Groundwater Theme, one for each SRT topic. In total, these proposals requested EUR 7,699,228 of the EUR 7,700,000 budget available and are all recommended for funding. There is a left over budget available of EUR 772 (see Table 1).

Raw Materials

Five proposals where submitted to the Raw Materials Theme. SRT RM1 received one proposal, SRT RM2 received two proposals, RM3 received one proposal, RM4 received one proposal and RM5 received no proposals. In total, the five proposals requested EUR 9,819,049 of the EUR 8,400,000 budget available. Therefore, not all proposals can be recommended for funding. The lowest ranked proposal, AGGRE-GRADES (see above-reference), are rejected. The total budget for the four highest ranked proposals adds up to EUR 7,882,435 of the available budget. The left over budget available is EUR 517,565 (see Table 1).

Geo-Energy

Seven proposals where submitted to the Geo-Energy Theme. SRT GE1 received one proposal, GE2 received three proposals, GE3 received no proposals, GE4 received one proposal, GE5 received one proposal, and GE6 received one proposal. In total, the seven proposals requested EUR 12,107,493 of the EUR 10,300,000 budget available. Therefore, not all proposals can be recommended for funding. The lowest ranked proposals, GARAH and GEO4SURE (see above-reference), are rejected. The total budget for the five highest ranked proposals adds up to EUR 10,072,067 of the available budget. The left over budget available is EUR 227,933 (see Table 1).

The results of the consensus scores and the subsequent final ranking list is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. The scores and ranking of the proposals submitted to the GeoERA Stage Two Call, including the total requested budget (in Euro's).

Proposal no.	Acronym	Rank	Criterion I - Excellence	Criterion II - Impact	Criterion III - Implementation	Total score	SRT	Requested budget (€)	Cumulative budget (€)	Left unallocated budget (€)
GeoE.171.014	GIP-P	1	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	IP1	3,860,804	3,860,804	39,196
GeoE.171.013	HOVER	1	5	4.5	5	14.5	GW1	2,999,814	2,999,814	
GeoE.171.008	TACTIC	2	4.5	4.5	4.5	13.5	GW2	1,799,979	4,799,793	772
GeoE.171.004	RESOURces	3	3.5	4	4	11.5	GW3	2,465,654	7,265,447	
GeoE.171.015	VoGERA	4	3.5	4	4	11.5	GW4	433,781	7,699,228	
GeoE.171.001	MINDeSEA	1	3.5	4	4,5	12	RM3	783,285	783,285	
GeoE.171.016	Mintell4EU	2	4	3	5	12	RM1	2,859,159	3,642,444	517,565
GeoE.171.017	EuroLithos	3	4	3	4	11	RM2	1,100,357	4,742,801	
GeoE.171.010	FRAME	4	3.5	3	4	10.5	RM4	3,139,634	7,882,435	
GeoE.171.012	AGRRE-GRADES	5	3	3	4.5	10.5	RM2	1,936,616	9,819,051	
GeoE.171.006	MUSE	1	4.5	4	4.5	13	GE2	1,313,260	1,313,260	
GeoE.171.007	HotLime	2	4	4	4	12	GE2	1,658,728	2,971,988	
GeoE.171.011	HIKE	3	4	4	4	12	GE4	1,620,649	4,592,637	227,933
GeoE.171.005	3DGEO-EU	4	4	3.5	4	11.5	GE5	3,651,677	8,244,314	
GeoE.171.009	GeoConnect^{3}d	5	4	3.5	4	11.5	GE6	1,827,753	10,072,067	
GeoE.171.002	GARAH	6	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	GE1	1,060,707	11,132,774	
GeoE.171.003	Geo4Sure	7	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	GE2	974,719	12,107,493	
									Total unallocated budget	785,466

3 RANKING NON-FUNDED PROPOSALS AND UTILIZING THE REMAINING BUDGET

The total left over budget add up to EUR 785,466. This budget is not sufficient to fund any of the three proposals that were ranked lowest, i.e. GARAH, GEO4SURE and AGGRE-GRADES.

However, the Executive Board suggested to explore whether the left over budget can be allocated to one of these proposals. Therefore, the Executive Board established a ranking for the proposals AGGRE-GRADES, GARAH and GEO4SURE using the criteria as set out in Joint Call Document No. 8.

Using the first prioritisation criterion: *´Project Proposals that address topics, or sub-topics, not otherwise covered by more highly ranked proposals, will be considered to have the highest priority´*, the proposal GARAH is identified with the highest priority of these three proposals. To determine the second highest ranked proposal, the second prioritisation criterion is used: *´The Project Proposals identified under (a), if any, will themselves be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion impact. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion excellence´*. The Impact consensus scores are compared between GEO4SURE (3,5) and AGGRE-GRADES (3) resulting in AGGRE-GRADES being the lowest ranked proposal.

The result of this ranking exercise is that the GARAH is the highest ranked proposal. In order to allocate the left over budget to GARAH, the in-kind contribution of the involved GSOs of GARAH could be raised. The proposal and associated budget and activities cannot be adjusted, since this would require a complete new review process. The Executive Board decided to put forward the opportunity to the General Assembly, to the Project Officer of the European Commission, and to the Project Consortium to carry out the project with a lower reimbursement rate, resulting in 22% EC contribution instead of the agreed 29,7% that applied to the already recommended proposals.

The ranking list as shown in Table 2 and the recommendation on GARAH will be presented to the General Assembly at their next meeting in Vienna, Austria, April 13th 2018. Meanwhile, the EC Project Officer will also be contacted to clarified whether the suggested procedure regarding GARAH can be approved according to the EC regulation. If positive in both cases, finally the project lead of GARAH will be contacted to clarify whether the consortium behind the proposal are willing to accept the lower reimbursement rate.

ANNEX E

Minutes 4th General Assembly

MEETING

4TH GA MEETING

MEETING ORGANISER

GeoERA Coordinator [TNO]

DATE

2018-04-13

VENUE

GBA, Vienna

Attendees

30 Geological surveys of the GeoERA consortium represented the following countries: Albania, Austria; Belgium; Croatia; Cyprus, Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia, Finland; France; FYROM; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Ukraine; United Kingdom.
Representatives of the Geological surveys can be found on the attached attendance list.

Attendance summary:

Total Number of GeoERA Parties	35
Total Number of Countries	33
Number of represented Votes (NB: 1 vote per country)	30 out of 33
Minimum quorum of the General Assembly needed to deliberate validly (art. 6.2.3 of the GeoERA Consortium agreement)	22 out of 33
Attained quorum	Yes, 91% of the votes were represented

Chair: Yvonne Schavemaker (Coordinator, TNO)
Minutes: Paul Bogaard / Kim Nathalia (TNO)

Attachments on the GeoERA intranet

20180328_Agenda and Background GeoERA 4th General Assembly.pdf
20180408_Attendance list 4th General Assembly.pdf
20180413_EGS signature list.pdf
20180413_Presentation GeoERA 4th General Assembly.pdf
GeoERA periodic report coordination M7-12.pdf

Minutes

The Coordinator, Yvonne Schavemaker (TNO), opens the 4th General Assembly at 11.00 AM.

The Coordinator welcomes the participants and presents the agenda.
There are no additions to the agenda. Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia and Latvia are not present, all other countries are. Therefore 30 out of 33 General Assembly votes are represented and the quorum is reached.

1. Status update GeoERA

The Coordinator shows the GeoERA timeline from 2017 until 2021.
The progress for the coordination in Q3 and Q4 2017 is presented with an overview of the coordination costs. Half of the budget is spent as expected for the amount of work in the joint call phase.

Attachment on the intranet: GeoERA periodic report coordination M7-12.pdf

2. Review procedure

The review was organized by NWO. The coordinator presents the:

- Summary of the projects received;
- Technical review. The reviews are confidential and are shared with the project leads only. They can distribute them if they want;
- Technical review selection, with the total number of reviewers approached and nationalities;
- Rebuttal period, the planning of this schedule was tight. Caused a lot of stress, but was a useful step;
- Experts selected, with the profiles; It was difficult to find sufficient reviewers, i.e. because conflicts of interest. The final group was diverse (EU – international; academic vs. non-academic).
- Expert Panel review, and their tasks. Ranking of equally scored proposals was done according to the agreed rules. Exceptions: two expert couldn't join (part of) the review meeting.
- Ranking List, the score in red was a typing mistake, it has no consequences for the ranking. The table shows three projects for which no sufficient budget is left to (fully) fund them.
- Criteria for ties; equal scored proposals. The result; Frame is ranked higher than Aggre-grades and Garah is ranked higher than Geo4Sure.
- Reports to receive (Consensus reports from the Expert Panel meeting; report on the review process by NWO; minutes of the Executive Board meeting, Independent Observer report)
- Recommendations from the Expert Panel and Independent Observer (IO) for the future.:
    - Open up future calls for other organisations;
    - There was little actual competition (success rate 90% instead of intended 65%)
    - Smaller and more focussed SRT's and competition between instead of within SRT's would create more competition and better opportunities for steering the budget
    - Period for review was seen as too short
- Lessons learned for the Executive Board (EB). Among the Project leads the differences in scores were confusing. The expert panel meeting is a critical discussion where all information and opinions come together. The EB learned this is common and consensus scores often differs from the individual expert scores.
- Complaints; according to JC Doc No.8 it is possible to complain on the review *procedure* (not on the content of the proposal evaluation).

Questions

Koen Verbruggen (GSI): what does the expert panel mean with including other non-funded partners?
Yvonne Schavemaker (Coordinator): open GeoERA for academia and institutes to join as non-funded partners. It would be better to allow this, but they don't have National funding.

Paul Bogaard (TNO): We agreed with the EC that GeoERA would not be open, but for the follow-up this will be an obligation.

Sebastian Pfleiderer (GBA): What is the difference between the scores of the technical review and expert panel review?
Yvonne Schavemaker (Coordinator): the technical experts were asked to indicate weaknesses and strengths, and give one overall indicative score of 1 to 5..The expert panel used these reports as input, but did a more extensive review according to the H2020 criteria (excellence, impact and implementation), and discussed their reviews to reach a consensus score. Yvonne Schavemaker shows the evaluation form on screen.

Sebastian Pfleiderer: What is done with the comments of the Expert Panel (EP)?
The experts filled in a form with their own scores, then they met to discuss this and to decide on one score. The technical reviews were shared with the EP, but they make their own judgement. The EP reports have not been shared with the Project Leads yet, these forms are expected next week when the minutes are checked.

Kris Piessens (GSB): Did the Technical Reviewers and Expert Panel use different criteria?
Yvonne Schavemaker: the criteria were the same, but the way of scoring was different (more extensive for the Expert Panel)

Peter Seifert (GBA): The project has done fantastic work to organize all this. Well done. The question now is, is this is the right instrument? The intention of GeoERA is to create datasets for Europe. More competition in smaller projects means that we cannot fulfill these intentions.
Koen Verbruggen: GeoERA 2.0 might not be the way to create the geological service, but it could still be valuable to do joint work.
Yvonne Schavemaker: Public-public instruments are under development, EJP co-fund is a new, more flexible tool. Interesting to keep following this.
John Ludden (BGS): To what extent is it recorded that GeoERA was set up to create a Geological Service?
Paul Bogaard: The starting point was the call by the European Parliament for a Geological Service; this was the argument we used for this lobby. There is a letter signed by 6 commissioners that supports the goal to create such a service. It is the mission statement of GeoERA. So we have a strong paper trail to support this.
John Ludden: We should communicate this much more strongly then.
Slavko Solar (EGS): During execution of the projects we need to make strong links with the commission, to strengthen the idea and to allow them to steer projects to fit their needs.

Dusan Wunder (SGUD): You mentioned that only one project per SRT can be funded, but I see more than 1 project for some SRT's on the ranking list?
Paul Bogaard: This was a recommendation by the Independent Observer for the future, in our procedure we did allow more projects per SRT.

Kris Piessens: I have some problems with the transparency of the review procedure. I understand your explanation but it feels uncomfortable. Since we got a good technical review, we didn't have a

chance to clarify anything during the rebuttal period. It is a good suggestion to have more communication, also with the Expert Panel, during the process.
Yvonne Schavemaker: We discussed this with the Executive Board, we didn't realize this might happen. This is one of the lessons learned for the future.

Yvonne Schavemaker presents the decisions to be taken:

DECISION 1a: Recommendation of the Executive Board for awarding the following projects within GeoERA

- Gip-P, HOVER, TACTIC, RESOURces, VoGERA, MINDeSEA, Mintell4EU, EuroLithos, FRAME, MUSE, HotLime, HIKE, 3DGEO-EU and GeoConnect³d.

29 votes are in favor, 1 vote abstain.
The recommendation is accepted.

DECISION 1b: Due to the left over budget EUR 785,466 the EB recommends to the GA to:

- Approve funding of the GARAH proposal up to a reimbursement rate of 22%, in case both the EC PO and the Project Consortium agree to this.

A discussion comes up whether the decisions are correctly formulated.
John Ludden (BGS): The GA should vote to accept the review and selection procedure and its outcome (i.e. the ranking list).
Patrick Wall (EGS): Based on the selection criteria and agreement on decision 1a, the GA automatically agrees on the 2nd decision.
John Ludden: 1b should be a recommendation not a decision; "in case" should be "if"
There is general agreement on the remarks of John Ludden. Yvonne Schavemaker is asked to look into this and reformulate the decision accordingly. The vote on decision 1b is taken just to be sure.

21 votes are in favor, 9 votes abstain.
The recommendation is accepted.

Question
Boris Malyuk (Geoinform): If there is no agreement on funding Garah, could we go forward and try to reach an agreement on Geo4Sure?
Yvonne Schavemaker: We need to discuss this with the EC Project Officer. In any case the discussions with Garah will be first.

3. Project payments

The Coordinator proposes to split the pre-financing during the Project Implementation Phase to allow better steering by the Secretariat, and create a strong incentive for the projects to comply with reporting rules.

DECISION 2: Proposal to split the 80% pre-financing at the start of the Project, into a pre-financing of 50% at the start of the project and 30% after submission and approval of the midterm review.

25 votes are in favor, 5 votes abstain.
The decision is accepted.

4. Theme Coordinators

The Raw Materials Theme Coordinator (Gerry Stanley) is going to retire.
The Coordinator presents the tasks of this role. Antje Wittenberg, Geoscientist at BGR, Germany, is proposed to take over this position.

DECISION 3: Proposal to install Dr. Antje Wittenberg as new Theme Coordinator Raw Materials

30 votes are in favor.
The decision is taken unanimously.

5. Stakeholder Council

The Coordinator presents the tasks of the Stakeholder Council and the current list of members.
Raw Material experience is lacking, therefore Thomas Crafford, Mineral Resources Program Coordinator, USGS, United States is proposed to join the Stakeholder Council.

DECISION 4: Proposal to install Thomas Crafford as new member of the SC, during the Project Implementation phase.

30 votes are in favor.
The decision is taken unanimously.

Remark
Zdenek Venera (CGS): It would be useful if the EGS General Assembly gets feedback from the Stakeholder Council.
Yvonne Schavemaker: They will be invited for the Kick-off and introduced to the projects. It is a good idea to have them write a recommendation for the directors.

5. Follow-up Steps

The Coordinator shows the upcoming planning with meetings with dates. The Project kick-off will be 3-4-5 July in Brussels and/or Utrecht. This is an important meeting!
Remark Paul Bogaard (TNO): the confirmation letter for the in-kind commitment is important, this is attachment 7 of the Grant Agreement. The deadline for submission is June 13 (it has to be signed by the director). Instructions will be send.

6. Foresight activities

The Forward Look Report, proposition paper and one-pager are available on the GeoERA intranet.
Remark Slavko Solar (EGS): the proposition paper will be send to the EGS ExCom for approval.

The coordinator congratulates everyone with the successful results of GeoERA.

The 4rd General Assembly closes at 12:35 PM