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Excerpts from the Scientific Report of the Severo Ochoa Selection Committee

“IFT is a consolidated, world competitive centre entirely devoted to theoretical physics, with a strong focus in particle physics, astrophysics, and cosmology. The research carried out is at the forefront of some of the most exciting areas in the field.”

“Scientific production in the period 2012-2016, with a peak in 2014, is outstanding. Both the volume and the significance of the publications, with an average citation per paper of 40 counts, place IFT among the leading institutes in the world for Theoretical Physics.”

“IFT has produced an exceptional range of other research outputs aimed at local and global scientific community, industry and society at large, and they have an outstanding program of post graduate training and have set up excellent ways to profit from Alumni holding positions in private software and financial companies through collaborations”

“International leadership of IFT is also based on the impressive number of international grants and programs, (...). The Centre has a truly international character, with a substantial fraction of its researchers being composed of foreign scientists. IFT members organize a variety of focused workshops and are regularly invited to the major international conferences in their domain. They also participate in prestigious international committees and panels.”

“Given the remarkable performance of the centre during the 2012-2016 stint, the level of funding and the exceptional density of leading figures in theoretical physics, it will not be so difficult for the centre to work on the fine structure and proceed even higher in excellence and world visibility. “

“The strengthening of the postdoc population, also pursued through improvement of the attractiveness of IFT on the international panorama with transversal activities, logistic help and money incentives, is bound to impact the scientific output of the centre”

“The centre is proposing a cutting edge program for training at all levels (master, PhD and post docs), in order to improve even further its already very strong capabilities. The strategy to invest in high visibility lecturers, seminar and Colloquia speakers has certainly generated a very lively atmosphere for all trainees.”

“IFT has a comprehensive and successful training program for young researchers. (...) PhD students and postdocs are well integrated in the laboratory, and have opportunities to present their work in international meetings. There is a good interaction between senior and younger members. Also, the gender balance is good and better than usual in Theoretical Physics.”

“The funding scheme is adequate and suitably diversified. IFT was able to maintain a critical mass for all its activities thanks its numerous funding resources, in particular from the EU.”

“Thus, IFT is a world reference centre in the field of theoretical physics with a well-organized structure, a strong training and recruiting program, prestigious workshop activities and visitor inflow. The research team is outstanding with a good gender balance and a wide international network of collaborations. This will be strengthened during the 2017-2020 by a strategic research plan that is remarkably thorough, ambitious and exciting: it contains a list of significant incremental improvements, which will contribute to reinforce IFT in its leadership role. IFT meets without doubt the criteria for excellence of the Severo Ochoa program.”

Global score: 99,85/100

ABOUT IFT UAM-CSIC

The Institute for Theoretical Physics (IFT) UAM-CSIC was officially created in 2003 as a joint research center belonging to the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM). It is the only Spanish center dedicated entirely to research in Theoretical Physics. The IFT members develop research in the frontiers of Elementary Particle Physics, Astroparticles and Cosmology, in order to understand the fundamental keys of Nature and the Universe. They are also leading many research projects, both at the national and international level. The IFT is part of the strategic line ‘Theoretical Physics and Mathematics’ of the Campus of International Excellence (CEI) UAM+CSIC established in 2009. Since 2012, it is credited as Severo Ochoa Centre of Excellence. Besides purely scientific activity, in the IFT is also conducted intensive training tasks of young researchers and professionals through the graduate program in Theoretical Physics with mention of excellence from the CEI and the Ministry of Education. In addition, the Institute carries out the important task of transferring knowledge to society through several outreach programs.

