



To whom it may concern

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Subject: Krafla Magma Testbed (KMT)

In 2008-2009, the first well of the Icelandic Deep Drilling Project was drilled in Krafla. The deep drilling project raised major interest within the geoscience community, as it is unique in the world to know exactly the location of magma inside a volcano. Considering these results, leading scientists and institutions worldwide in the fields of geoscience and natural hazards have developed the idea of an international research project at Krafla named the Krafla Magma Testbed (KMT). The goal is to build up a permanent research infrastructure in Krafla for research on magma in the roots of volcanoes and for the purpose of developing a new generation of models of evolution of volcanoes.

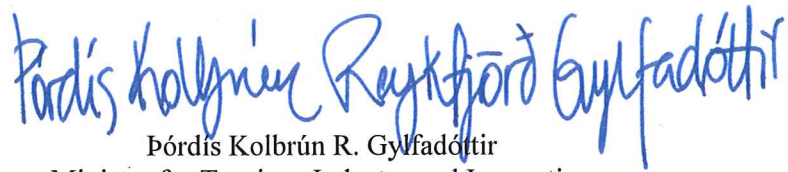
The planned research centre would be unique in the world and the only one where it is possible to sample magma and to conduct direct experiments based on the accurately known location of magma. An important part of the project would be drilling a new well into the magma at Krafla and to conduct on site experiments.

This project (KMT) has been introduced and presented to the Government of Iceland. On October 4th 2016 the Minister of Industry and Commerce presented a memorandum to a cabinet meeting, introducing the project. At this cabinet meeting it was agreed that the Minister of Industry and Commerce, on behalf of the Icelandic Government, would issue a formal Statement of endorsement supporting the project. This Statement was issued with a letter dated 24 October 2016.

With a letter, dated 3 December 2018, the Ministry received a request from GEORG and KMT on a dialogue on participation of the Icelandic Government in the project, as founding members. To follow up on that request the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Innovation presented a memorandum before a cabinet meeting on 19 February 2019, including the letter from GEORG and KMT.

The proposal of the memorandum was that the Icelandic Government would enter into a dialogue on taking part in the project as a founding member, with a potential contribution of 200 million ISK in the period 2020-2024. Following the cabinet meeting, the proposal was put forward into the work on the five year financial budget plan of the Government for 2020-2024, which is currently in discussion in Parliament. The Parliament will conclude the five year financial budget 2020-2024 before the summer break and following that the Ministry will have more information available.

On behalf of the Government of Iceland, I hereby confirm that the Government of Iceland is both enthusiastic and generally supportive towards the establishment of the international research centre for magma and volcanology in Krafla (the Krafla Magma Testbed) and welcomes the participation of research teams from other countries as equal partners in this important project.



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