



## PRESS RELEASE

### European Commission and Human Brain Project sign Framework Partnership Agreement

**Geneva, 30 October 2015** – We are very pleased to announce that the European Commission (EC) and the Human Brain Project (HBP) have signed the Horizon 2020 Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) for the [Human Brain Project](#) (HBP).

The HBP is an EU-funded FET Flagship initiative that aims to accelerate our understanding of the human brain, make advances in defining and diagnosing brain disorders, and develop new brain-like ICT technologies.

This ten-year project started in October 2013 and is nearing the end of its Ramp-Up Phase funded under the EU's FP7. The next phase of HBP, the Operational Phase, will begin as of April 2016.

The FPA describes the work plan for the HBP's Operational Phase, which covers the next 7.5 years. With the signature of the FPA, the HBP budget in Horizon 2020 will be unlocked. EU funds will be released based on successful annual project reviews conducted by independent experts to closely monitor progress made by the HBP, as well as successful evaluation of the proposals the HBP will submit to the Commission every two years. These proposals (Specific Grant Agreements) describe the detailed activities of each two-year phase of the project.

The signature of the FPA ([see PDF Document](#)), voted by the Consortium, is a key milestone. The project has been refined, based on the first EC project review ([see PDF Document](#)) and the recommendations from the HBP Mediation Group ([see PDF Document](#)), which was put in place to manage the public scientific debate started in June 2014.

Key elements of the FPA include:

- The reinforced infrastructure focus of the Project – one of the main aims of the HBP is to build an enduring information and communication technology research infrastructure (RI). This will enable the HBP to provide the community with robust, user-friendly computational and big data integration tools and services, plus mathematical models to better understand the functioning of the brain and its diseases, and emulate its computational capabilities. This will allow European scientists to significantly accelerate progress in the fields of computing, medicine and neuroscience.
- A revised governance structure – to ensure transparency, accountability, efficiency and sustainability in the way the project is managed, with a clear separation of powers between the essential scientific leadership, decision making and decision execution.

- An outline of the HBP's transition into a Legal Entity. The Legal Entity should provide a strong basis for managing the RI, and avoid giving a disproportionate project management role to a single participating institution.
- The reinforcement of cognitive neurosciences into the Project – the HBP launched a Call for Expressions of Interest (<https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/call-eoi>) in May 2015. Four winning projects, which address ambitious cognitive and systems neuroscience questions, were selected and announced in September 2015.
- Internal co-design projects - multidisciplinary projects aimed at developing the HBP RI. The focus on use cases and specific products of the co-design projects makes it easy for diverse groups, within HBP and the wider research community, to collaborate closely and contribute to the RI's development.

Philippe Gillet, Chairman of the HBP Board of Directors, commented: “We are very happy that the FPA was signed today. This is a crucial step for the HBP as it confirms that it now has a solid foundation to move forward for the next phase”.

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#### Contact Information

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#### Web links:

<https://www.humanbrainproject.eu>

[http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/europe-2020-in-a-nutshell/flagship-initiatives/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/europe-2020-in-a-nutshell/flagship-initiatives/index_en.htm)

