

## Statute of the 4<sup>th</sup> Transnational Round Table on Magnonics, High-Frequency Spintronics, and Ultrafast Magnetism (TRTM 2027)

This Statute describes and explains the aims and rules governing the organisation of the Transnational Round Table on Magnonics, High-Frequency Spintronics, and Ultrafast Magnetism (“the Round Table” or “TRTM”).

### Aim

The Round Table is a non-profit International Conference, whose defining aim is to offer an inclusive platform for efficient exchange of ideas, knowledge, and expertise in magnonics, high-frequency spintronics, and ultrafast magnetism in an open-science format that

- stimulates community building, inter-community dialogue, and cooperative approach to research pathfinding both within its topic and beyond;
- challenges groupthink while encouraging responsible innovation;
- lowers barriers for participation related to one’s career stage and availability of funding;
- removes barriers for participation related to irrelevant individual differences.<sup>1</sup>



### Origins

The idea of this Round Table and its format emerged as a result of experience in organising the International Seminar and Workshop “Magnonics: From Fundamentals to Applications” (“the Workshop”), initiated in 2009 and now known as Magnonic Conference, and then the International Advanced School on Magnonics (“the School”), held several times from 2012 – 2022. The programmes of both the Workshop and the School routinely included not only magnonics but also high-frequency spintronics and ultrafast magnetism. Furthermore, founded as an advanced training facility, the School ended up including not only tutorial talks and lectures but also reports of latest discoveries, reviews of past results, and a great deal of deliberations and arguments, eventually moulded into daily round-table discussions during the School in Porto. Although unintended, this multifaceted format of the School was probably inevitable, given the diversity and non-conformist character inherent to research and researchers. So, this Round Table has aimed to institutionalise and develop further its predecessors’ best features, explicitly augmenting them with the principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) as the event’s core values.

### Ambition

One way to describe the ambition behind the Round Table is to create a format of face-to-face scientific dissemination that would occupy a niche similar to that of those publishing models that devolve assessment of a result’s importance to the reader. Indeed, the modern landscape for face-to-face scientific dissemination is dominated by traditional, highly hierarchical conferences and workshops. Their structure includes multiple levels of differentiation of presentations (e.g. keynote, plenary, semi-plenary, invited, oral, poster), based on their importance, as perceived by programme committees and advisory boards. This complex ranking is difficult to get right, and the traditional nomination and selection procedures tend to benefit established, well connected, and therefore already well visible scientists. This leads to the importance of a scientific result being sometimes

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<sup>1</sup> These include age, class, country of origin, culture, disability, gender or gender reassignment, life experiences, marriage and civil partnership, neurodiversity, pregnancy and maternity, race or ethnicity, nationality, religion or belief, political affiliation, sex, and sexual orientation.

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substituted by the importance of a scientist or an institution, while raising unnecessary hurdles for the other researchers, including newcomers to the field.

The distinct feature of the Round Table is its non-hierarchical, bottom-up structure enshrined by this Statute. This structure promotes diversity among presenters, decouples scientific dissemination and learning opportunities from behind-the-scenes politics, removes or weakens effects of personal biases, enables feedback from the audience to the Round Table's future editions, and considers interactions within the community and inclusion at all stages of the event organisation.

The Round Table does not aim to replace conferences and schools in their established formats. Instead, we expect the various event formats to complement each other, alike the open-access and traditional formats of scientific publishing; and we hope to see features trialled at TRTMs to be adopted at other conferences.

### **EDI-related positive action policies**

The Round Table uses the following EDI-related positive action policies aimed at non-disadvantaging anyone due to their individual differences.<sup>1</sup>

To prioritise candidates with equal scores (in any vote), the following tie breaking priority order is followed:

1. candidates falling within the scope of EDI-related positive actions,<sup>2</sup>
2. candidates with a greater proportion of votes cast by voters falling within the scope of EDI-related positive actions,
3. all other candidates.

The need for the EDI-related positive actions to be triggered is established by the organisers, optionally requested via the person's declaration; the latter declaration shall always be optional, may only concern existence of the need for the EDI-related positive action to be triggered, and will never concern identification of the reasons to do so.

To avoid any doubts, the Round Table will never collect, store, or use information about the nature of anyone's individual characteristics.

The Round Table strives to ensure a diverse and inclusive composition of its Organising Committee and Scientific Advisory Board.

The Round Table may not be used as a platform for distribution of any views or information outside its direct scientific and educational remits.

### **Organising Committee**

The Organising Committee of the Round Table consists of its secretary, topical gatekeepers, and Local Organising Committee.

### **Round Table secretary**

The Round Table is administered and managed by its secretary, Volodymyr Kruglyak, delegating to the Local Organising Committee all responsibilities related to the local organisation and management of the conference and its budget.

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<sup>2</sup> Those that are either discriminated against, or are at risk of discrimination against, or may be plausibly considered to be at risk of discrimination against due to their individual differences listed in footnote 1.

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The secretary is also responsible for the revision of this Statute, in consultation with the gatekeepers and Scientific Advisory Board.

### **Topical gatekeepers**

The topical gatekeepers guarantee a fair implementation of this Statute.

The topical gatekeepers also determine relevance of submitted self-nominations (which includes applying to them restrictions described below) and abstracts.

There are three topical gatekeepers, one each responsible for Magnonics (Anjan Barman), High-Frequency Spintronics (Isabella-Rahel Boventer), and Ultrafast Magnetism (Alexandra Kalashnikova).

From after TRTM 2026 and then annually, one gatekeeper steps down (either voluntarily or by rolling dice) and is replaced by one of the current or former members of the Scientific Advisory Board (including only former TRTM invited speakers), by self-nomination followed by a prioritisation vote, if necessary.

The secretary assumes the role of the fourth gatekeeper responsible for interdisciplinary submissions, not readily falling within remits of one of the topics above.

### **Local Organising Committee**

The Local Organising Committee manages the local organisation of the Round Table, in consultation and with support of the secretary, the Scientific Advisory Board, and the TRTM community, as necessary.

### **Scientific Advisory Board**

The Scientific Advisory Board prioritises selection of the invited speakers for the Round Table and advises the topical gatekeepers and the secretary on changes to this Statute.

The Scientific Advisory Board consists of former invited speakers of the Round Table.

To join the Board, the speaker must attract a number of commendations (see the Feedback section) that is equal or greater than 15% of the audience (counting only those who are eligible to and have casted at least one commendation).

Each member joins the Scientific Advisory Board for two cycles of the Round Table organisation.

### **Schedule and format**

The Round Table is organised annually, typically in May-July, with alternative timing chosen if and as necessary (as e.g. in the case of TRTM 2027).

The core onsite scientific programme consists of talks and posters, typically taking place from Monday afternoon to Friday morning inclusive, and is complemented by topical panel discussions, lab tours, outreach activities, etc.

The Monday morning and the Wednesday and Friday afternoons are devoted to offsite scientific and cultural events (academic visits, workshops, collaborative work, excursions, leisure events).

### **Location**

The location of the Round Table is selected two organisation cycles in advance of the event, with the efficiency of delivery to its defining aims and the rules outlined in this Statute being the overriding

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criteria.

The initial sifting of the proposals is performed by the secretary and the gatekeepers in view of the defining aims and the rules outlined in this Statute.

If more than one team of local organisers and their proposed venue satisfy the defining aims and the rules outlined in this Statute, the preferred option is selected via voting by the Scientific Advisory Board.

If no alternative is proposed, the default location of the Round Table will be Exeter and its vicinities.

### **Fees**

The Round Table does not selectively subsidise its attendance by any participants, although it does not prevent its sponsors from doing so.

The fees are kept at the minimal viable level by ensuring that each participant's fee includes only appropriate "per person" (e.g. catering and, if included, accommodation) costs.

Every attendee of the Round Table (including any adult accompanying persons) is considered as its participant and is responsible for paying their fee by the stipulated deadline, unless they attend the Round Table with the sole purpose of supporting its organisation.

Each participant is responsible for making their own accommodation, subsistence, and transport arrangements (unless included within the fee), with information and assistance provided by the Round Table's Local Organising Committee.

The shared costs (e.g. the rent of premises, web support, transport, administration, prizes) are covered from the following sources (listed in the priority order):

1. (normal) sponsorship income and budget left over from the previous edition of the Round Table;
2. (a realistic chance) an overhead included in the invited speakers' fee;
3. (force majeure) a small overhead included in the standard fee.

### **Sponsorship and involvement in co-organisation**

The Round Table encourages third parties to sponsor its activities in a variety of ways. This includes (but is not limited to) the following methods of sponsorship:

- taking part in the technical exhibition / running a technology stand;
- direct sponsoring in part or in full attendance of the Round Table by individual participants or groups of those;
- funding bursaries (which may be allocated by the organisers) for widening access and participation by underrepresented groups and communities;
- sponsoring in full a specific part of the Round Table, e.g. session, day, discussion, outreach, prize, banquet, cultural event, etc;
- making non-specific cash contributions to the Round Table's shared costs, e.g. the rent of premises, web support, transport, administration, prizes, etc.

Depending on the relative scale of a sponsor's contribution to an edition of the Round Table, the sponsor may be identified as a co-organiser of the specific edition, with the sponsor's role however being always limited to non-scientific aspects of the Round Table.

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### **Invited talks**

Invited talks are allocated based on speakers' self-nominations and have one of the following suggested formats, identified by the candidate in their self-nomination:

- an in-depth report of a recent discovery (10 min for the background and motivation, 25 min for the speaker's novel results, 15 min for the discussion, impact and outlook, 10 min for questions);
- a topical roadmap (10 min for the background and motivation, 20 min for the review of the topic and most important recent result(-s), 20 min for the roadmap and outlook, 10 min for questions);
- a topical tutorial (5 min for the background and motivation, 20 min for the basics, 20 min for the advanced material and recent results, 5 min for the outlook, 10 min for questions);
- another format within the scope of the Round Table, as approved by the Scientific Advisory Board.

The time split is advisory, and the overall duration of talks in a particular year may be varied.

### **Contributed posters**

Contributed posters may have one of the following formats, identified at the time of submission:

- a complete result – a report on a complete research study of significant scientific value;
- a preliminary report for ongoing research that would benefit from additional discussion and insight;
- a presentation of a recently started (typically, collaborative) research project;
- a presentation of a newly established laboratory or team and their team roadmap;
- another format within the scope of the Round Table, as approved by the topical gatekeepers.

### **Feedback**

During the Round Table, each participant casts (anonymously) their commendations for their favourite poster presentations, taking into account their declared format and excluding those co-authored by themselves or their colleagues; the numbers of commendations received by individual presenters determine the recipient of the Best Poster award.

After the Round Table, the audience cast their commendations for the invited speakers, taking into account their declared format and excluding those (co-)authored by themselves or their colleagues; the numbers of commendations received by individual speakers determine their promotion to the Scientific Advisory Board.

### **Procedure for selection of invited speakers**

**Step 1.** Self-nominations for invited talks to be presented at the Round Table.

Self-nominations are accepted continuously between subsequent editions of the Round Table, with a set of cut-off dates for consideration.

Nominations by third parties are not accepted.

Each self-nomination contains the following mandatory components:

- the speaker's name and affiliations,
- the proposed format (i.e. in-depth report, roadmap, tutorial, or other), title, and abstract

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(including names and affiliations of all contributors) of the talk.

The self-nominations may also contain any of the following optional components:

- the speaker's CV;
- a supporting statement with evidence of the speaker's suitability for the role and for the proposed talk's format (report: description of the speaker's contribution; roadmap: description of either the speaker's track record in the topic or related topics, or description of the new research or technological vision to be conveyed; tutorial: description of either the speaker's track record in the topic or related topics; the description may have form of a reference to a published / posted document co-authored by the speaker);
- name, affiliation and email of a referee (e.g. a colleague or collaborator of a suitable standing) who could confirm the speaker's fit for the role.

**Step 2.** Consideration of the submitted self-nominations by the gatekeepers.

The submitted self-nominations (edited to exclude any sensitive information) are passed on to the gatekeepers for sifting, during which each gatekeeper answers one question:

*Does the self-nomination fall within the scope of the Round Table?*

Once at least one gatekeeper answers the question positively, the self-nomination is passed on to Step 3 of the selection.

**Step 3.** The prioritisation voting.

The voting to select the invited speakers occurs two times during each cycle of the Round Table's organisation.

The early-bird vote take place 7-8 months prior to the conference, with top **nine** candidates selected, provided they achieve  $\geq 50\%$  of the maximum number of points achievable in the vote.

The standard vote takes place 4-5 months prior to the conference, with the top candidates selected in the number required to complete the programme, provided they achieve  $\geq 50\%$  of the maximum number of points achievable in the vote.

Candidates not selected in the early-bird vote are automatically enrolled into the standard vote, with a possibility to update or change their self-nomination prior to the corresponding cut-off date.

The voting is done by the members of the Scientific Advisory Board, the topical gatekeepers, and the Round Table secretary, excluding anyone with a conflict of interest (e.g. representing the same institution<sup>3</sup> or being otherwise related) with any of the candidates.

Each vote is open for one week.

Each voter may cast zero, one or two points for each candidate.

When more than one voter represents an institution in a vote, the number of points cast by each of them for each candidate is divided by the number of the voters from the institution taking part in this vote.

**Step 4.** Confirmation by the speakers.

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<sup>3</sup> Any exceptions will be made with consideration of the institution's structure and the goal of diversifying the representation in the Round Table and its organisation.

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The selected speakers are invited to deliver their proposed talks at the Round Table.

Within 14 days of the receipt of invitation, the invited speakers must confirm their acceptance of the invitation and rules described in this Statute.

Once confirmed, the name of the speaker is added, together with the title and abstract of their talk, to the programme and announced online.

Selection steps 1-3 are waived for the topical gatekeepers, the secretary, and the recipient of the main Best Poster award of the previous edition of the Round Table.

### **Restrictions for selection of invited speakers**

The invitation is non-transferrable and may not be deferred to a later edition of the Round Table.

The same speaker may be invited only once per **two** consecutive editions of the Round Table; this restriction applies also to speakers who accepted and later dropped an invitation, albeit it can be waived (at the discretion of the gatekeepers) in cases when (i) the integrity of the programme has not been jeopardised, and (ii) the waiver aligned with the defining aim and core values of the Round Table.

No two speakers from the same institution may be invited to the same edition of the Round Table, with the exception of the standard selection round.<sup>3</sup>

No two speakers may be invited to the same edition of the Round Table to report on research co-authored by both of them.

To avoid doubts, the topical gatekeepers and the secretary are not exempt from the restrictions.

The invitation of the recipient of the main Best Poster award of the previous edition of the Round Table is non-transferrable and non-deferrable, and it is not taken into account when any other restrictions are applied.

### **Procedures for selection of contributing participants**

Applications to participate in the Round Table may be submitted any time and may include abstracts of contributed poster presentations.

The first consideration of the applications takes place by the topical gatekeepers shortly after the early-bird application cut-off date, typically in November, with results communicated by the beginning of December.

Depending on the demand and capacity, the organisers may have to restrict the number of participants, in which case the applications are prioritised in the following order:

1. applications that include a relevant presentation abstract;
2. all other applications.

Within each category, the priority is given to candidates falling within the scope of EDI-related positive actions, after which the time of application submission is used as a tiebreaker, if necessary.

The relevance of the submitted abstract is determined by the topical gatekeepers.

After the early-bird application cut-off date, applications submitted before the early-bird registration deadline are accepted on the first-come first-served basis until the capacity limit is reached.

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For participants whose self-nominations for talks are rejected, the submission time of the first self-nomination is taken as the time of application.

**Visas**

Visa letters will be supplied by the Local Organising Committee, for which additional documents (such as a letter of support from the supervisor, a degree certificate, CV or a motivation letter) may be requested.

**Changes to this Statute**

The rules in this Statute may be changed as long as the defining aim of the Round Table is unaffected.

The changes are introduced, with account of feedback collected from both the participants and organisers, after each Round Table and prior to the official start of the next organisation cycle.

**Additional provisions**

It is envisaged that the rules will be unable to cater for all eventualities of the organisation and appropriate exceptions may need to be made, which however will always be consistent with the defining aim and core values of the Round Table and the spirit of this Statute.