

30<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Department of Chemistry,  
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona  
Edifici C  
08193 Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Vallès)  
SPAIN

Dear Albert,

**Heterogeneous Astrocatalysis of Space-Abundant Transition Metals. A Computational Approach (COMPUTASTROCAT)**

I write to offer my strongest support in relation to your proposal above. Your participation as a partner in my own proposal – *Astrocatalysis: In Operando Studies of Catalysis and Photocatalysis of Space-abundant Transition Metals* – submitted to the EPSRC in the UK earlier this year, and currently under review, was a crucial part of the combined experimental and computational strategy that we derived after long discussions of the potential role of true catalysis in astrophysical environments. It is therefore good to see the draft of your own proposal on this topic thereby completing our plans within the framework that we discussed. Your proposal clearly and elegantly describes the reasoning behind our combined efforts. Your approach to the computational investigation of astrocatalysis is clearly elucidated and very much what is needed.

In conclusion, I give my strongest support in respect of what I view as an outstanding proposal aimed at opening innovative computational studies that will complement my own planned experimental work in this area. It will provide the perfect foundation upon which to advance our collaboration in this novel area.

Yours faithfully



Martin R. S. McCoustra  
ScotCHEM Professor of Chemical Physics

**School of Engineering and Physical Sciences**

William H Perkin Building Gait 2 Heriot-Watt University Edinburgh EH14 4AS United Kingdom  
Telephone +44 (0)131 449 5111 [www.eps.hw.ac.uk](http://www.eps.hw.ac.uk)

*Edinburgh Campus • Scottish Borders Campus • Orkney Campus • Dubai Campus*

*Heriot-Watt University is a Charity registered in Scotland, SC000278*