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UNIT: 621 – INSTITUTE FOR POLYMERS AND COMPOSITES

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GRADE: 5

COMMENTS:

This Unit is very professional in its approach and takes an outstandingly professional attitude to both the macro and micro management of its activities. The fragmentation of IMAT has allowed the quality of this group to be clearly appreciated by the panel. The Unit is, by European standards, quite a large one for Polymer Science and Engineering and is fully competitive internationally, forming a flagship activity for Portugal.

The group has room for expansion in the area of polymer synthesis/chemistry. They have an engineering centred approach and their polymers generally come off the shelf or from industry. There may be a limit of vision in the area of synthetic Polymer Chemistry and, consequently, room for improvement. Hence, the Unit is encouraged to expand to encompass Polymer Chemistry more energetically - this goal might be affected by formal collaborations (twinning agreements). We would expect such organic group to prepare organic polymers, which could be processed with the facilities available in the centre to give novel materials with enhanced properties.

Finally, some members should increase their publication numbers and more papers should be published in leading materials journals, with higher impact factors.

Evaluation Panel Affiliations

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