

**Houston Advanced Research Center**

Consolidated Financial Statements  
and Single Audit Reports  
for the year ended December 31, 2017

# Houston Advanced Research Center

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## Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors of  
Houston Advanced Research Center:

### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Houston Advanced Research Center, which comprise the consolidated statements of financial position as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 and the related consolidated statements of activities and of cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditors' Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform our audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

## ***Opinion***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Houston Advanced Research Center as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## ***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying supplementary information included in the schedule of expenditures of federal awards for the year ended December 31, 2017 as required by Title 2 U. S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the consolidated financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the consolidated financial statements as a whole.

## **Report Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 23, 2018 on our consideration of Houston Advanced Research Center's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Houston Advanced Research Center's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Houston Advanced Research Center's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Blazek & Vetterling*

July 23, 2018

## Houston Advanced Research Center

Consolidated Statements of Financial Position as of December 31, 2017 and 2016

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	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 135,297	\$ 161,323
Accounts receivable	215,895	1,107,675
Prepaid expenses and other assets	50,655	100,973
Pledges receivable	81,600	
Property and equipment, net ( <i>Note 2</i> )	<u>7,895,351</u>	<u>6,237,585</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 8,378,798</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 7,607,556</u></b>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 308,546	\$ 792,681
Construction payable		775,820
Accrued expenses	142,805	121,320
Deferred revenue	32,573	3,325
Notes payable ( <i>Note 3</i> )	<u>4,272,247</u>	<u>2,387,304</u>
Total liabilities	<u>4,756,171</u>	<u>4,080,450</u>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	3,402,755	199,040
Temporarily restricted ( <i>Note 4</i> )	<u>219,872</u>	<u>3,328,066</u>
Total net assets	<u>3,622,627</u>	<u>3,527,106</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 8,378,798</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 7,607,556</u></b>

*See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.*

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## Houston Advanced Research Center

Consolidated Statement of Activities for the year ended December 31, 2017

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	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	<u>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
REVENUE:			
Research contracts and grants <i>(Note 5)</i>	\$ 1,574,193		\$ 1,574,193
Contributions	3,238,456	\$ 232,251	3,470,707
Other income	<u>10,899</u>		<u>10,899</u>
Total revenue	4,823,548	232,251	5,055,799
Net assets released from restrictions:			
Capital expenditure releases	2,988,072	(2,988,072)	
Satisfaction of program restrictions	<u>352,373</u>	<u>(352,373)</u>	
Total	<u>8,163,993</u>	<u>(3,108,194)</u>	<u>5,055,799</u>
EXPENSES:			
Program expenses:			
Energy and Building Solutions	1,703,549		1,703,549
Environment	<u>1,006,468</u>		<u>1,006,468</u>
Total program expenses	2,710,017		2,710,017
Management and general	<u>2,250,261</u>		<u>2,250,261</u>
Total expenses	<u>4,960,278</u>		<u>4,960,278</u>
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	3,203,715	(3,108,194)	95,521
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>199,040</u>	<u>3,328,066</u>	<u>3,527,106</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 3,402,755</u>	<u>\$ 219,872</u>	<u>\$ 3,622,627</u>

*See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.*

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## Houston Advanced Research Center

Consolidated Statement of Activities for the year ended December 31, 2016

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	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	<u>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
REVENUE:			
Research contracts and grants <i>(Note 5)</i>	\$ 3,048,507		\$ 3,048,507
Contributions	1,515,372	\$ 546,589	2,061,961
Loss on sale of property and equipment	(62,867)		(62,867)
Other income	<u>8,791</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>8,791</u>
Total revenue	4,509,803	546,589	5,056,392
Net assets released from restrictions:			
Satisfaction of program restrictions	<u>349,040</u>	<u>(349,040)</u>	<u>          </u>
Total	<u>4,858,843</u>	<u>197,549</u>	<u>5,056,392</u>
EXPENSES:			
Program expenses:			
Energy and Building Solutions	2,402,366		2,402,366
Environment	<u>1,445,046</u>		<u>1,445,046</u>
Total program expenses	3,847,412		3,847,412
Management and general	<u>2,026,292</u>		<u>2,026,292</u>
Total expenses	<u>5,873,704</u>		<u>5,873,704</u>
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	(1,014,861)	197,549	(817,312)
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>1,213,901</u>	<u>3,130,517</u>	<u>4,344,418</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 199,040</u>	<u>\$ 3,328,066</u>	<u>\$ 3,527,106</u>

*See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.*

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## Houston Advanced Research Center

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016

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### NOTE 1 – ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Organization – Houston Advanced Research Center (the Center), a Texas nonprofit corporation, is a university-affiliated organization focusing on research in human and ecosystem well-being. Major research interests are in the areas of the environment, energy, and policy analysis. The primary source of funding is research grants and contracts from both public and private sources. Philanthropic support provides funds for internal research and for expenditures not recovered from sponsored research activities.

HARC Technology, Inc. (HTI) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Center formed for the purpose of facilitating the transfer of promising technologies from the laboratory to the private sector.

Basis of consolidation – These consolidated financial statements include the assets, liabilities, net assets and activities of the Center and HTI (collectively HARC). All significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Federal income tax status – The Center is exempt from federal income tax under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is classified as a public charity under §509(a)(2).

Pledges receivable that are due within one year are reported at net realizable value. Pledges receivable that are expected to be collected in future years are discounted to estimate the present value of future cash flows, if material.

Property and equipment is reported at cost, if purchased, or at fair value at the date of gift, if donated. Additions and improvements with a cost of more than \$5,000 are capitalized. Depreciation is provided using the straight-line method over estimated useful lives of 3 to 5 years for furniture and equipment and 10 to 31 ½ years for building and improvements.

Net asset classification – Contributions and the related net assets are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions, as follows:

- *Unrestricted net assets* include those net assets whose use is not restricted by donor-imposed stipulations even though their use may be limited in other respects such as by contract or board designation.
- *Temporarily restricted net assets* include contributions restricted by the donor for specific purposes or future time periods. When a purpose restriction is accomplished or a time restriction ends, temporarily restricted net assets are released to unrestricted net assets.

Research contracts and grants are recognized as revenue when the related services are provided. Amounts received in advance are reported as deferred revenue.

Contributions are recognized as revenue at fair value when an unconditional commitment is received from the donor. Contributions received with donor stipulations that limit their use are classified as restricted support. Conditional promises to give are recognized in the same manner when the conditions

are substantially met. Gifts of long-lived assets with explicit restrictions that specify how the assets are to be used and gifts of cash or other assets that must be used to acquire long-lived assets are classified as restricted support. Absent explicit donor stipulations about how long those long-lived assets must be maintained, the Center reports expirations of donor restrictions when the donated or acquired long-lived assets are placed in service. During 2017, HARC received \$3,217,758 in contributions from one donor, which represents 64% of total revenue. During 2016, HARC received \$1,900,000 in contributions from two donors, which represents 38% of total revenue.

Estimates – Management must make estimates and assumptions to prepare financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, the amounts reported as revenue and expenses, and the allocation of expenses among various functions. Actual results could vary from the estimates that were used.

Recent financial accounting pronouncements – In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, which replaces most existing revenue recognition guidance for exchange transactions not specifically covered by other guidance. This ASU does not apply to non-exchange transactions such as contributions. The core principle of the new guidance is that an entity should recognize revenue in an amount that reflects the consideration to which it expects to be entitled in exchange for transferred goods or services and establishes a 5-step process to determine when performance obligations are satisfied and revenue is recognized. The ASU is effective for fiscal periods beginning after December 15, 2018. Management does not believe this ASU will have a significant impact on the financial statements.

In August 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-14, *Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities*. The amendments in this ASU are aimed at providing more useful information to users of not-for-profit financial statements. Under this ASU, net assets will be presented in two classes: *net assets with donor restrictions* and *net assets without donor restrictions* and underwater endowments will be grouped with *net assets with donor restrictions*. New or enhanced disclosures will be required about the nature and composition of net assets, and the liquidity and availability of resources for general operating expenditures within one year of the balance sheet date. Expenses will be required to be presented by both nature and function and investment return will be presented net of external and direct internal investment expenses. Absent explicit donor stipulations, restrictions on long-lived assets will expire when assets are placed in service. HARC is required to adopt this ASU for fiscal year 2018. Adoption of this ASU will impact the presentation and disclosures of the financial statements.

## NOTE 2 – PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment consists of the following:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Land	\$ 829,376	\$ 829,376
Building and improvements	6,929,560	890,963
Furniture and equipment	986,647	694,352
Construction in progress		<u>5,258,199</u>
Total property and equipment, at cost	8,745,583	7,672,890
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(850,232)</u>	<u>(1,435,305)</u>
Property and equipment, net	<u>\$ 7,895,351</u>	<u>\$ 6,237,585</u>

### NOTE 3 – NOTES PAYABLE

Notes payable consist of the following:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
A \$4,500,000 line of credit with a bank maturing in September 2020 for the construction of a new building. The line bears an interest rate of LIBOR plus 1.4% (3.17% at December 31, 2017). The line of credit is secured by the new building. Accrued interest is due monthly.	\$ 4,272,247	\$ 1,569,748
A \$1,500,000 unsecured line of credit with the Endowment for Regional Sustainability Science (ERSS) with interest at LIBOR plus 0.50%. Interest is payable quarterly and the line of credit expires on December 31, 2018.	<u>                    </u>	<u>817,556</u>
Total notes payable	<u>\$ 4,272,247</u>	<u>\$ 2,387,304</u>

Notes payable are due as follows:

2018	\$ 213,612
2019	213,612
2020	<u>3,845,023</u>
Total	<u>\$ 4,272,247</u>

HARC capitalized interest totaling approximately \$12,000 and \$3,600 in 2017 and 2016, respectively. Interest expense totaled approximately \$79,000 and \$4,600 in 2017 and 2016, respectively.

### NOTE 4 – TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Temporarily restricted net assets are available for the following purposes:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Astrophysics Research	\$ 106,310	\$ 31,790
Water Challenge Pilot program	51,434	
IFAS upgrades	41,468	41,468
Development of Galveston Bay Report Card	18,780	222,544
Energy Efficiency and Resiliency program	1,880	
Capital projects		2,975,821
Property Assessed Clean Energy program		43,160
Internships		8,391
Environmentally Friendly Drilling Systems program		<u>4,892</u>
Total temporarily restricted net assets	<u>\$ 219,872</u>	<u>\$ 3,328,066</u>

## NOTE 5 – RESEARCH CONTRACTS AND GRANTS

Revenue from research contracts and grants includes the following:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Federal government contracts and grants:		
U. S. Department of Energy	\$ 822,194	\$ 1,194,758
U. S. Department of the Interior	50,544	1,113,576
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency	37,272	191,606
U. S. Department of Commerce	<u>40,356</u>	<u>62,539</u>
Total federal government contracts and grants	<u>950,366</u>	<u>2,562,479</u>
State and local government contracts and grants:		
Texas Parks and Wildlife	65,841	1,686
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality		30,864
Other	<u>12,932</u>	<u>          </u>
Total state and local government contracts and grants	<u>78,773</u>	<u>32,550</u>
Private research contracts and grants	<u>545,054</u>	<u>453,478</u>
Total research contracts and grants	<u>\$ 1,574,193</u>	<u>\$ 3,048,507</u>

HARC receives grants from federal, state and local government funding sources that require fulfillment of certain conditions as set forth in the related contracts and are subject to review and audit by the awarding agencies. Such reviews and audits could result in the discovery of unallowable activities and unallowable costs. Consequently, any of the funding sources may, at their discretion, request reimbursement for expenses or return of funds as a result of non-compliance by HARC with the terms of the contracts. Management believes such disallowances, if any, would not be material to HARC's financial position or changes in net assets.

## NOTE 6 – RETIREMENT PLAN

HARC has a tax-sheltered annuity plan (the Plan) established under §403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code. Under the terms of the Plan, HARC contributes a minimum of 5% of the participating employees' regular monthly salaries. In addition, HARC will match 1/2% for each percent the employee contributes up to 6%, for a maximum HARC contribution of 8% of regular salary. HARC contributed to the Plan approximately \$164,000 in 2017 and \$174,000 in 2016.

## NOTE 7 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through July 23, 2018, which is the date that the financial statements were available for issuance. As a result of this evaluation, no events were identified that are required to be disclosed or would have a material impact on reported net assets or changes in net assets.

## Houston Advanced Research Center

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards for the year ended December 31, 2017

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<u>CLUSTER TITLE</u>					
<u>GRANTOR</u>				Contract Number	
<u>Pass-through Grantor</u>				or Pass-through	Award
<u>Program Title &amp; Period</u>	<u>CFDA #</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Grantor Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Federal Expenditures</u>
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CLUSTER					
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE					
Passed through Texas General Land Office:					
Coastal Zone Management Administration					
Awards – Galveston Bay Mitigation					
#1	10/01/15 – 06/30/17	11.419	16-068-000-9112	\$100,000	\$ 40,356
Total U. S. Department of Commerce					<u>40,356</u>
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR					
Passed through Bureau of Land Management:					
Air Emissions from Oil and Gas Workshops					
#2	10/01/16 – 05/31/17	15.XXX	L16PX02119	\$65,000	<u>43,044</u>
Passed through Harris County:					
Coastal Impact Assistance Program – Southeast Harris County					
Water Improvement Project					
#3	01/04/12 – 01/31/17	15.668	F12AP00071	\$592,825	<u>7,500</u>
Total U. S. Department of the Interior					<u>50,544</u>
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY					
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Information Dissemination,					
Outreach, Training and Technical Analysis/Assistance – Southwest					
Combined Heat and Power Technical Assistance Partnerships					
#4	10/01/15 – 03/31/18	81.117	DE-EE0007233	\$1,139,367	<u>604,529</u>
Passed through State Energy Conservation Office:					
State Energy Program – City Energy Efficiency 2017					
#5	01/05/17 – 12/31/17	81.041	N/A	\$170,178	<u>170,178</u>

(continued)

## Houston Advanced Research Center

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards for the year ended December 31, 2017 (continued)

<u>CLUSTER TITLE</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>		<u>Contract Number</u> <u>or Pass-through</u> <u>Grantor Number</u>	<u>Award</u> <u>Amount</u>	<u>Federal</u> <u>Expenditures</u>
<u>Pass-through Grantor</u>	<u>CFDA #</u>				
<u>Program Title &amp; Period</u>					
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CLUSTER <i>(continued)</i>					
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY <i>(continued)</i>					
Passed through GSI Environmental, Inc.:					
Fossil Energy Research and Development – Greenhouse Gases Emissions Factors for Compressors					
#6	10/17/16 – 07/31/18	81.089	SC4501-001	\$50,000	27,856
Fossil Energy Research and Development – Natural Gas Storage Emissions					
#7	10/17/16 – 09/30/18	81.089	SC4502-001	\$40,000	<u>19,631</u>
Subtotal for 81.089					<u>47,487</u>
Total U. S. Department of Energy					<u>822,194</u>
U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY					
Passed through Texas Commission on Environmental Quality:					
Galveston Bay Estuary Program – Assessing the Assimilative Capacity of Lake Livingston Reservoir and Related Impacts on Coastal Inflows					
#8	09/01/15 – 05/31/19	66.416	582-16-60126	\$160,000	<u>28,054</u>
National Estuary Program – State of the Bay 2018					
#9	09/01/17 – 12/31/18	66.456	582-18-80343	\$85,000	<u>9,218</u>
Total U. S. Environmental Protection Agency					<u>37,272</u>
TOTAL FEDERAL AWARDS/RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CLUSTER					<u>\$ 950,366</u>

See accompanying note to schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

## Houston Advanced Research Center

Note to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards for the year ended December 31, 2017

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### NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation – The schedule of expenditures of federal awards is prepared on the accrual basis of accounting. The information in this schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U. S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Federal expenditures include allowable costs funded by federal grants. Allowable costs are subject to the cost principles of the Uniform Guidance and include both costs that are capitalized and costs that are recognized as expenses in HARC's financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Indirect costs are reported utilizing HARC's approved indirect cost rate from the United States Department of Interior and HARC does not utilize the 10% de minimus indirect rate.

Because the schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of HARC, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net assets, or cash flows of HARC.

Major programs – All of HARC's programs fall within the Research and Development cluster and, as such, are major programs.

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## **Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards***

To the Board of Directors of  
Houston Advanced Research Center:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as of December 31, 2017 and the related consolidated statements of activities and of cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated July 23, 2018.

### ***Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered HARC's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of HARC's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of HARC's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

### ***Compliance and Other Matters***

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether HARC's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

***Purpose of this Report***

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Blazek & Vetterling*

July 23, 2018

**Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance for Each Major  
Program and Report on Internal Control Over  
Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance**

To the Board of Directors of  
Houston Advanced Research Center:

**Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program**

We have audited Houston Advanced Research Center's (HARC) compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of HARC's major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2017. HARC's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditors' results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

***Management's Responsibility***

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements of federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of its federal awards applicable to its federal programs.

***Auditors' Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on compliance for each of HARC's major federal programs based on our audit of the types of compliance requirements referred to above. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U. S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Those standards and the Uniform Guidance require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about HARC's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination of HARC's compliance.

***Opinion on Each Major Federal Program***

In our opinion, HARC complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2017.

## Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

Management of HARC is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above. In planning and performing our audit of compliance, we considered HARC's internal control over compliance with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each major federal program to determine the auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for each major federal program and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of HARC's internal control over compliance.

*A deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.



July 23, 2018

# Houston Advanced Research Center

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs for the year ended December 31, 2017

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## Section I – Summary of Auditors’ Results

### Financial Statements

Type of auditors’ report issued:  unmodified  qualified  adverse  disclaimer

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weakness(es) identified?  yes  no
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified that are not considered to be material weakness(es)?  yes  none reported

Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted?  yes  no

### Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs:

- Material weakness(es) identified?  yes  no
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified that are not considered to be material weakness(es)?  yes  none reported

Type of auditors’ report issued on compliance for major programs:  unmodified  qualified  adverse  disclaimer

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR §200.516(a)?  yes  no

Identification of major programs:

<u>CFDA Number(s)</u>	<u>Name of Federal Program or Cluster</u>
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Various	Research and Development Cluster
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Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs: \$750,000

Auditee qualified as a low-risk auditee?  yes  no

## Section II – Financial Statement Findings

There were no findings related to the financial statements which are required to be reported in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

## Section III – Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs

There were no findings for federal awards required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR §200.516(a).