



Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy

Charter of the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) of 15 September 2015

Section 1 Name, legal nature

(1) In accordance with section 6 of the Units and Time Act (EinhZeitG), as published on 22 February 1985 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 408) and as last amended by section 4, para 68 of the Act of 7 August 2013 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 3154), the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (in the following referred to as "*the Bundesanstalt*") is a public-law institution directly under federal government control, without legal capacity, under the auspices of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (in the following referred to as "*the Federal Ministry*"). It is a higher federal authority and has its seat in Braunschweig and Berlin.

(2) Pursuant to section 1 of the Agreement on the taking over of the *Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt*, Berlin-Charlottenburg, by the Federal Republic of Germany and its merging with the *Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt* in Braunschweig on 21 September 1953 (Federal Gazette No. 188 of 30 September 1953), the *Bundesanstalt* is the successor to the Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt which was founded in 1887.

Section 2 Tasks

(1) The Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) is the National Metrology Institute of Germany. Its basic tasks result from section 6 of the EinhZeitG and from sections 45 to 47 of the Measures and Verification Act of 25 July 2013 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 2722).

These include:

1. the realization, maintenance and dissemination of the physical units (units in metrology) to ensure the national and international uniformity of the measures and the determination of fundamental constants;
2. the scientific handling of metrology, especially of precision measuring technology;
3. the investigation of substances regarding their structure and their physical properties;



4. the promotion of science and industry by research and development, collaboration in teaching and lecturing, calibration, testing, conformity assessment and approval, the rendering of advice and imparting of information within the scope of its scientific and technical capabilities;
5. the support of the national accreditation body and of the accreditation advisory board and its advisory committees in the performance of their tasks in accordance with the accreditation law as far as this is required for the dissemination of the units.

(2) The basic tasks of the *Bundesanstalt* are supplemented by other tasks which are assigned to it by law, ordinances, legal regulations, decrees or notifications according to European legislation. The *Bundesanstalt* keeps an overview of the legal tasks assigned to it.

(3) The *Bundesanstalt* represents the Federal Republic of Germany in technical matters in the fields of activity assigned to it by law vis-à-vis institutions in foreign countries and international organizations.

(4) The *Bundesanstalt* advises and assists the Federal Government in scientific and technical questions relating to its fields of tasks.

(5) Within its fields of tasks, the *Bundesanstalt* carries out commissions from third parties, especially from industry, as far as this is compatible with its legal tasks.

Section 3

Reporting, working and research program

- (1) The *Bundesanstalt* submits to the Ministry and to the public Annual Reports on the work carried out and on the results achieved.
- (2) At least every two years, the *Bundesanstalt* elaborates a working and research program.
- (3) The *Bundesanstalt* annually reports to the Federal Ministry and to the "Kuratorium" (Advisory Board) on the work carried out, on current focal points, and on challenges and strategic objectives.

Section 4

Management and representation

- (1) The *Bundesanstalt* is managed by the President; his/her permanent representative is the Vice-President and – should the latter be prevented – the further representative (who is determined in the Statutes).
- (2) The President represents the Federal Republic of Germany legally and generally in all matters relating to the *Bundesanstalt*.
- (3) The President is appointed by the Federal President, on the proposal of the Federal Ministry.

Section 5

Organization

- (1) The organization of the *Bundesanstalt* as well as the course of business are regulated by the Statutes of PTB. The Statutes are enacted by the President of the *Bundesanstalt*. They are subject to the approval of the Federal Ministry.
- (2) To increase the efficiency of task completion, the *Bundesanstalt* applies cost and performance accounting.



Section 6

The Kuratorium (Advisory Board)

(1) The *Bundesanstalt* has an Advisory Board (the "Kuratorium"). It advises the *Bundesanstalt* and the Federal Ministry on all important matters relating to the *Bundesanstalt*, in particular to strategy and long-term orientation. The Kuratorium of the *Bundesanstalt* proposes to the Federal Ministry suitable candidates to be appointed for the post of the President.

(2) The departmental head of the Federal Ministry responsible for the *Bundesanstalt* is the President of the Kuratorium.

(3) The Kuratorium consists of not more than 30 honorary members from scientific and industrial circles. The Kuratorium proposes to the Federal Ministry members to be appointed or dismissed. The appointment is made for five years; reappointment is permitted.

(4) Furthermore, the following persons take part in the meetings of the Kuratorium:

- the President of the *Bundesanstalt*,
- the Vice-President as well as the member of the Presidential Board,
- the heads of the divisions,
- delegates from the Federal Ministry,
- invited guests.

(5) The Kuratorium draws up the Rules of Procedure for itself. These require the approval of the Federal Ministry.

Section 7

General Assembly on Metrology and Verification

(1) The *Bundesanstalt* has a "General Assembly on Metrology and Verification". The Assembly serves to exchange information and experience in the field of metrology and verification.

(2) The General Assembly shall be composed of expert institutions and associations. The membership is on an honorary basis.

(3) The *Bundesanstalt* presides over the General Assembly and hosts its Secretariat.

(4) The Federal Ministry is permanently represented in the General Assembly.

(5) The President of the *Bundesanstalt* enacts the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly. They are subject to the approval of the Federal Ministry.

Section 8

Entering into force

This Charter enters into force on the day of its publication in the Federal Law Gazette.

At the same time, the previous Charter of the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) of 12 March 1996 (Federal Gazette p. 3921) is invalidated.

Berlin, 15 September 2015

The Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy
Sigmar Gabriel