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To the selection committee of the Werner Siemens Stiftung

This letter is written to express the strongest support of the WSS Jahrhundertprojekt proposal “Desert Goes Green – fresh water by cellular desalting” submitted by Prof. Dr. Armin Djamei from the University of Bonn. We firmly believe that this bold proposal has the potential to contribute to solving one of the most pressing problems of humankind, namely the provision of clean freshwater at a low cost in arid regions of the world. The idea of Professor Djamei, to use biological systems for de-salting seawater, is not only brilliant, but also seems feasible within a relatively short time frame.

The proposal is in line with the research focus of the University of Bonn in the area of sustainable agricultural production. We are the only University in Germany with a Cluster of Excellence in agriculture. Its implementation could provide innovative low-cost fresh water with the help of bioengineered microalgae, thereby solving a central problem of agricultural production in arid regions, which will have global implications for human food security and adaptation to climate change.

If funded, we will provide all necessary structural resources. In particular, the necessary research space and infrastructure for ~100 researchers over ten years, as outlined in the “Desert Goes Green” research plan, will be provided and guaranteed by the University of Bonn as the host institution.

Sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Andreas Zimmer

Vice-Rector for Research and Early Career Researcher  
Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn