Peer-Review Statements

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All of the articles in this proceedings volume have been presented at the Rocscience International Conference 2023 (RIC2023) during April 24–26, 2023, in Toronto. These articles have been peer-reviewed by the members of the Publications Committee and several external reviewers and approved by the Editor-in-Chief, who affirms that this document is a truthful description of the conference's review process.

1 Review Procedure

The reviews were single-blind. Each submission was examined by at least two reviewer(s) independently.

The conference submission management system was EquinOCS.

The submissions were first screened for generic quality and suitableness. After the initial screening, they were sent for peer review by matching each paper's topic with the reviewers' expertise, considering any competing interests. A paper could only be accepted if it had received favourable recommendations from at least two reviewers.

Authors of a rejected submission were given the opportunity to revise and resubmit after addressing the reviewers' comments. The acceptance or rejection of a revised manuscript was final.

2 Quality Criteria

Reviewers were instructed to assess the quality of submissions solely based on the academic merit of their content along the following dimensions:

1. Originality: evaluate whether papers have been previously published or whether they present novel material such as theorems, unique applications, new perspectives on a subject, etc.

R. Hammah—Editor-in-Chief of the Rocscience International Conference 2023 (RIC2023).

S. Javankhoshdel—Publication Committee Chair and Editor of the Rocscience International Conference 2023 (RIC2023).

T. Yacoub—General Chair and Editor of the Rocscience International Conference 2023 (RIC2023).

A. Azami and A. McQuillan—Editor and Technical Chair of the Rocscience International Conference 2023 (RIC2023).

2. Scientific Merit: submissions will be analyzed for whether they provide scientific value or whether they mainly promote a commercial product or company.
3. Fit with the Conference Theme: the review process will evaluate how well a submission fits into the conference's central theme.
4. Presentation Logic and Appropriate Referencing: reviewers will check how well arguments and statements made in submissions are laid out and substantiated/backed by appropriate technical references.
5. Presentation: reviewers will assess the quality of the English language used and the images, charts, and figures in a submission. This evaluation will also cover how these elements explain ideas or enhance readers' understanding. Papers that are easy to read and understand will receive good scores.
6. Completeness: reviewers will check a submission for whether it provides all essential ingredients such as references, figure captions, chart headers, axes labels, introductions, concluding statements or summaries, etc.
7. In addition, all the articles have been checked for textual overlap to detect possible signs of plagiarism by the publisher.

3   Key Metrics

Total submissions	115
Number of articles sent for peer review	115
Number of accepted articles	81
Acceptance rate	70%
Number of reviewers	70