

A Proposal to the GU8 Council of Presidents  
on the Establishment of the JRC Task Force Initiative

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I. Mission Statement

The mission of the GU8 Joint Research Committee (JRC) is to encourage collaborative research among the participating universities in the areas of marine affairs, advanced technologies, global logistics, and business administration, and in particular those research areas receiving wide public and private sector support. The GU8 Council of Presidents Declaration of 2007 extended the original mission to include a focus on commercialization of intellectual properties stemming from GU8 collaborative research. Thus, the current GU8 Joint Research Committee mission is to assist in the formulation and sustainability of collaborative research programs and to encourage revenue generation through the commercialization of GU8 derived technologies and products.

The JRC has sponsored six workshops that have succeeded in bringing together researchers from the participating institutions representing each of the four focus areas to plan collaborative research programs. While the initial contact has been successful, in general it has proven more difficult for researchers to continue their collaborative efforts beyond the workshop planning stages for a number of reasons, chief among them being those associated with the lack of proximity inherent to international collaboration; for example, ongoing and viable communications. The JRC Task Force proposal presented here addresses important issues such as continuity, sustainability, and revenue generation that are critical to meeting the objectives of the JRC collaborative research mission.

II. Role of the JRC: Task Force Facilitator

The JRC Task Force proposal is built upon three points. The first addresses the responsibilities of the JRC towards initiating and sustaining GU8 collaborative research programs and towards revenue generation through commercialization of resulting technologies. To enhance the involvement of the JRC membership towards these ends, each JRC Task Force will be administered by a Facilitator who will be selected from the current JRC membership. The chief roles of the Facilitator are to provide administrative support to the Task Force as needed, to maintain ongoing communications of Task Force membership through periodic status report requirements and by other means as necessary, to assist and facilitate communications with external entities such as industry and government sectors, and to convene annual Task Force meetings.

In regard to the annual Task Force meeting, the success of any research collaborative effort is highly dependent upon the extent to which collaborating parties are able to communicate regularly and efficiently. This issue is even more critical in regard to international collaboration of the type proposed here. Thus, the Task Force Initiative

seeks funding of approximately \$25K to sponsor the annual Task Force meeting until that point in which the Task Force becomes self-sustaining.

### III. Task Force Theme, Focus Areas Teams, and Team Leaders

The second point addresses the expertise of collaborating GU8 scientists and the creation of task-specific researcher teams. A JRC Task Force will be centered around a broad research theme that most likely would stem from a JRC Workshop. In the related proposal to establish the first JRC Task Force, the Task Force Theme is “Future Supply Chains.” A Task Force must demonstrate the necessary critical mass of research expertise and institutional capability across the GU8 institutions in order to sustain the thematic research. A Task Force is to consist of Research Focus Areas that are central to the Task Force Theme. Each Research Focus Area will be represented by a research team consisting of scientists from across the GU8 institutions. A research team will be led by a team leader appointed by the research team. The team leader will be the main communication link for the respective Research Focus Area and will provide updates and status reports to the Task Force as necessary. Each Research Focus Area will provide a clear scope of work with milestones and estimated time lines for completion. For example, the pending proposal on the JRC Task Force on Future Supply Chains consists of the following four Research Focus Areas and appointed team leaders:

Research Focus Area One centers on the greening of supply chains and is led by Dr. Chandra S. Lalwani (University of Hull, England)

Research Focus Area Two centers on supply chain risks and security and is led by Dr. Booi Kam (RMIT University, Australia)

Research Focus Area Three centers on transportation infrastructure in supply chain management and is led by Dr. Doug Hales (URI, USA)

Research Focus Area Four centers on policies for managing incentives and is led by Dr. Christopher M. Anderson (URI, USA) and Dr. Young-Tae Chang (Inha, Korea)

### IV. Private Sector Partnerships: Task Force Industrial Advisory Committee

The third point on which the JRC Task Force initiative is based addresses partnerships with the private sector and revenue generation. A JRC Task Force will establish an Industrial Advisory Committee whose members will be representatives of those market sectors that are central to the Task Force Theme and Research Focus Areas. The primary roles of the Industrial Advisory Committee are to raise Task Force awareness of industrial perspectives relative to the Task Force Theme, to influence the direction of research area focus projects towards market needs, and to enhance revenue generation through commercialization of GU8 generated intellectual property. The Task Force Facilitator working in concert with Task Force Focus Area Team Leaders will appoint Industrial Advisory Committee members. The Task Force Facilitator will administer the Industrial Advisory Committee in any and all capacities to meet the needs of the focus area research teams.

## V. Task Force Eligibility Criteria and Submission Process

1. The JRC will entertain proposals for JRC Task Force recognition and support from member institutions at the annual JRC meeting.
2. The proposal must demonstrate the necessary critical mass of research expertise and suitable institutional capability across the contributing member institutions in order to sustain the thematic research project; that is, the Task Force Theme. Evidence of necessary research expertise should include but is not limited to traditional scholarly achievements such as refereed scientific publications and issued patents.
3. The proposal must demonstrate an ability to become self-sustaining in an appropriate amount of time. Evidence of sustainability should include but is not limited to a history of grant and contract awards from private, public, and government sectors, and demonstrate either a history of intellectual property generation or the potential to generate intellectual property that would lead to revenue generation.
4. The proposal must identify the necessary Research Focus Area(s) that are central to the Task Force Theme.
5. In regard to Focus Area Team membership, the proposal must identify an appropriate number of qualified researchers taken from the contributing member institutions that would be necessary and sufficient to achieve the proposed work. The team leader must be a recognized scientist and scholar in the discipline(s) represented by the Focus Area.
6. The proposal must include a clearly defined scope of work including milestones and estimated time-lines for completion.
7. The proposal must give evidence of industrial and/or corporate support. Potential members to serve on the Task Force Industrial Advisory Committee should be included.
8. Upon approval by the JRC, the JRC Chair will present the proposal at the Annual Meeting of the Council of Presidents for their consideration, approval, and financial support.
9. In the case of an existing Task Force, the Facilitator will submit status reports to the JRC at the annual meeting. The JRC Chair will present Task Force progress and status reports at the Annual Meeting of the Council of Presidents.