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A Proposal to the GU8 Joint Research Committee on the Establishment of the JRC Task Force

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 (insert reference). The GU8 Council of Presidents at the 2007 Council meeting extended the 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.

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 convene annual Task Force meetings, and to assist and facilitate communications with external entities such as industry and government sectors.

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 example of the JRC Task Force presented below, 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. In the example provided below, the proposed JRC Task Force on Future Supply Chains consists of 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 (Chris and YT please complete)

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.

As an example of the JRC Task Force initiative, we propose the following:

JRC Task Force on
Future Supply Chains: Issues, Design, Configurations

Facilitator: Dr. Peter Alfonso, JRC Representative and University of Rhode Island, USA

Research Focus Area One: Issues concerning the greening of supply chains
Focus Area Team Leader: Dr. Chandra S. Lalwani (University of Hull, England)

Critical issues over the next 5 -10 years

Known	Unknown/Speculative
More stringent regulations: - carbon emissions - landfills	Unstable Governments - crisis
Product life cycles - regulations	New types of energy sources
Emerging commercial appeal to green goods/ products	Climate change

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Research Focus Area Two: Issues concerning supply chain risks and security
Focus Area Team Leader: Dr. Booi Kam, RMIT, Australia

Critical issues over the next 5 -10 years

Known	Unknown/Speculative
Move toward 100% check	New pandemics
Rationale for security investment	Emerging forms of Terrorism
Uncertainties (with respect to transport infrastructure development and support)	New technological flaws
Government mandates (security related)	Insurance Mandates
Cyber security	

Research Focus Area Three: Issues related to roles of transport infrastructure (ports, shipping, airports) in supply chain operations
Focus Area Team Leader: Dr. Doug Hales, University of Rhode Island, USA

Critical issues over the next 5 -10 years

Known	Unknown/Speculative
Transhipment changes	Government mandates on privatization
Water routes	Technology (including materials)
Data access, both historical and real time	Regional impacts of port failures
Land use conflict in port areas (port expansion capacity – limited)	Future port competitiveness (how will ports compete for infrastructure investment with other supply chain infrastructure needs?)
Public health impact	
Tourism	
Freight versus People (route options)	
Aging infrastructure	