CTC Industrial Fellowship Programme

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Purpose and aims of IFP

IFP program is intended for the establishment of sustainable partnership between universities and industry through hosting industrial fellows (graduates and engineers from industry) in research and academic centers, with the aim to realize advanced targeted trainings of industrial fellows and joint research according to the needs of industrial sponsor.

Flexible IFP duration, organized several times during the year, enables the hiring of industrial fellow on development and innovation projects of mutual interest for academic and industrial partner. The IFP program is an excellent opportunity for technology transfer and involvement of young people in innovative projects that contribute to the exchange of experience, ideas, knowledge, and increase of innovative potential and competitiveness of enterprises.

The Industrial Fellowship Programme should focus on those sectors that have strategic importance for the WBC region, such as:

- manufacturing and production;
- micro manufacturing;
- nanotechnologies;
- energy and energy saving;
- advanced biotechnologies;
- ICT and embedded systems;
- other new and emerging sectors.

The main goals for the Industrial Fellowship programme will be:

- to establish and support research projects in strategic industrial sectors;
- to develop innovative solutions to industrial and societal challenges;
- to provide academics with the opportunity to learn about interesting and relevant problems and applications for future research directions;
- to transfer academic knowledge to industry;
- to facilitate long-term career success of highly qualified knowledge workers in academic organizations and industry;
- to encourage creation of R&D jobs in industry.

Motivation

Several main reasons can motivate the industry to increase university-industry cooperation (including IFP). They are:

- access to manpower, including well-trained graduates and knowledgeable faculty;
- access to basic and applied research results from which new products and processes will evolve;
- solutions to specific problems or professional expertise, not usually found in an individual enterprise;
- access to university facilities, not available in the enterprise, for example some specific software tool or modern equipment;
- assistance in continuing education and training;
- obtaining prestige or enhancing the enterprise's image; and
- being good local citizens or fostering good community relations.

On the other hand, the reasons for universities to be interested in IFP are:

- industry provides a new source of money for university;
- industrially sponsored research provides student with exposure to real world research problems;
- industrially sponsored research provides university researchers a chance to work on an intellectually challenging research programs;
- some government funds are available for applied research, based upon a joint effort and cooperation between university and industry.

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Benefits for industrial fellows

An industrial fellowship is particularly valuable for graduates. The main benefits the fellows will experience can be summarized as follows:

- to be provided by an interesting working experience, developing an important contact with the university research environment;
- to enhance his/her own creative thinking, problem-solving, project management and team-building skills;
- to enhance his/her own ability to communicate with academy in order to identify solutions for problems and issues of interest;
- to be provided by a customized learning experience based on skills, talents, and developmental needs;
- to work in a collaborative environment with both academics and industrial people, forming long-term contacts and networks for future collaborations;
- to access to academic services (on-line databases, software, laboratory equipment, academic network) and the possibility of attending ongoing courses and seminars;
- to have the possibility of publishing papers and patent applications with the research team at the University.

Benefits for the R&D institution

Thanks to the activation of an industrial fellowship program, the hosting R&D institutions can:

- have fellows that will act for the knowledge and technology transfer from university to sponsor enterprises and provide excellent communication channels between them;
- provide a pipeline of up-to-date, experienced practitioners for innovation of internal audit products, tools, and services;
- reduce investment in overall staffing since the labor costs (salary and consumables) for fellows accepted into the program will be assumed by the sponsoring enterprise for the duration of the fellowship assignment;
- alignment the strategic directions of research to the real needs of industry;
- application and verification of fundamental research results through joint development and innovation projects with the sponsoring company within the IFP;
- development of a consortium for new projects (national and international).

Benefits for the sponsor enterprise

Sponsoring enterprises can gain great benefits from participation in Industrial Fellowship Programs. In particular the IFP:

- brings out technical expertise, research, and innovation from university experts (professors and researchers) to the industry;
- helps technological transfer from university to industry;
- fosters sustained competitive advantages through applying innovation;
- encourages to apply the scientific approach to industrial activities;
- promotes the development of new skills useful for the industry;
- gets opportunity to reduce rates at selected research facilities used in IFP;
- allows professional growth and reward opportunities for high-potential staff, integrating career goals with fellowship opportunities;
- creates an important communication channel with the university and R&D centres, helping knowledge transfer even in technological fields external to the specific research activity;
- generates customized assignments that are mutually beneficial to the employee, the organization, and the university;
- strengthens external relations;
- provides opportunities to impact the future research direction.

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WBCVMnet
WBC Virtual Manufacturing Network
Fostering an Integration of the Knowledge Triangle