

The NSF Center for Microcontamination Control BYLAWS

1. Management Plan:

The principal officers of the Center for Microcontamination Control (hereafter referred to as the Center) will be the Co-Directors, who will report through their respective university channels. At University of Arizona, the Co-Director will report through the Department Head of Electrical and Computer Engineering to the Dean of the College of Engineering and Mines (COEM). At Northeastern University, the CO-Director will report through the Dean of Engineering. Currently, the Co-Directors are Professor John F. O'Hanlon, UA and Professor Ahmed Busnaina, NEU. The Co-Directors are responsible for the overall organization and operation of the Center. The primary duties of the Co-Directors are to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Center, and to implement the research plan recommended by the Industry Advisory Board.

2. Industry Advisory Board:

There will be one Industry Advisory Board (hereafter referred to as the IAB) consisting of one representative from each member company joining at Northeastern and UA. The responsibility of the IAB is to review and comment on all aspects of the Center and to recommend: a) the research agenda to be carried out by the Center, and b) the allocation of resources to projects. The IAB may also recommend to the UA and Northeastern Administration, who will have the final authority on the research agenda, allocation of resources, and Center Bylaws.

The IAB will fulfill its obligations as follows:

At biannual meetings, the Center Co-Directors will submit a research agenda and budgets to the IAB. The research agenda will contain a number of research projects. IAB members will review, approve, reject or modify the projects. Also the IAB may suggest projects not originated by a Co-Director or faculty. Similarly, the IAB provides advice regarding the budget and allocation of Center funds. This will be done annually. At least for the first three years of the new, combined Center, the research budgets of each University will remain separate, in keeping with NSF policy. That is, the membership dues paid to Northeastern will fund Northeastern research, whereas the membership dues paid to UA will fund UA research. The IAB will approve the research projects at Northeastern and UA. The recommendations of the Board will be forwarded to the respective Co-Directors, who will have final approval authority to determine the Center research projects at each site. The IAB may meet at other intervals as deemed necessary.

3. Academic Policy Committees:

The Department Heads, or their deputies from involved Departments at Northeastern and UA will be members of their respective Universities' Academic Policy Committees. The functions of these Committees are to ensure that the research proposed to the IAB by the Director is consistent with each Universities' goals, and to coordinate personnel, space, and equipment requirements of the Center at each University.

4. Industry Mentors:

Industry Mentors will be designated by company members. Their function will be to provide a mechanism for technical interchange between the member companies' technical personnel and university Principal Investigators (PIs). The Industry Mentors are to facilitate the transfer of research results to the member companies, as well as to provide some access to the research needs of their companies. Industry mentors are encouraged to attend research reviews, and maintain informal contacts with PIs. The Industry Mentors are one of the prime sources of information about the industrial problems as they relate to the Center program. In a real sense, they are the

conduit through which technical information will flow back and forth from the Center to the supporting companies.

5. Principal Investigators:

Each research project will be managed by a PI who is a faculty member, research scientist or engineer of a participating academic unit. The PI will work with other faculty, research scientists, engineers, graduate students and undergraduate students, to perform research outlined in the research projects undertaken by the Center.

6. NSF Center Evaluator:

An evaluator will be appointed by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to evaluate the quality of the University—Industry interaction. The Center evaluator will be chosen by the NSF. Currently this is Prof. David A. Tansik, of UA College of Business and Public Administration. The independent evaluator has a reporting relationship to the NSF.

7. Communication Between Center and Supporting Companies:

Communication is a most important aspect of the program, and both formal and informal communications are necessary to enhance transfer of technology between University and engineers and scientists from the supporting companies. Formal modes will include the biannual meetings at which time PIs supervise the reporting of progress on the projects which they manage, as well as material submitted for patent review as described in the Membership Agreement. Informal modes of communication will be chosen to keep pace with the technology. For example, 15 years ago this was limited to printed newsletters; whereas today it involves use of the World Wide Web to present Center information at University-maintained web sites, and use of the Web for interactive teleconferencing. Member companies are encouraged to invite PIs to their facilities to discuss their research findings. Sponsoring members, or others using Center facilities, cannot not make statements on behalf of the Center, without prior approval of the IAB. The Center cannot make statements, even if indirectly, on behalf of the members.

8. Center Meetings:

NSF requires that there be two meetings annually; one will be held at Northeastern and one at UA. These meetings will serve as a forum wherein ongoing research will be reviewed, new research projects selected, and Center resources allocated. Other business may also be presented. Proposals for new research are most effectively shaped by matching the skills of faculty investigators to the needs and interests of the industry sponsors. Communication between prospective PIs and industry supporters is encouraged.