



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

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Dear Colleague,

The University of Massachusetts Amherst, Polymer Science and Engineering Department is one of the premier polymer graduate programs in the United States. In the past several years, there has been a considerable amount of fundamental and basic research in the area of polymers used in the energy field.

We are now in the planning stages to integrate these research efforts with our industrial partners through the Center for UMass-Industry Research on Polymers (CUMIRP) program. CUMIRP originated as the first NSF/Industry-University Collaborative Research Center in 1980 and continues to be one of the leading Industry-University research centers. The CUMIRP consortia program (known informally as 'Part I') is divided into research thrust areas or 'Clusters'. We are proposing to start a new cluster focused on polymers in Energy related sciences. 'Cluster E' would initially focus on the polymeric components in fuel cells (see the attached research summary) and eventually expand into other energy related areas such as photovoltaic devices, lithium ion batteries, etc.

Cluster E would operate within the CUMIRP program with its standard fees for small, medium and large companies and discounts for those participating in other CUMIRP programs. The selection of research projects in the Cluster would be decided among the participant faculty and members, and any resultant IP shared equally among members. An overview of the CUMIRP program is attached for those unfamiliar with the Center (with additional information at: <http://www.pse.umass.edu/cumirp>).

We will be hosting a 1-day meeting at UMass Amherst with interested companies on Thursday, June 28, 2007. The intent of the meeting is to discuss the planned research areas and get industrial input for the program.

Please let Jim Capistran know if you are interested and able to send a representative to the meeting.

Sincerely,

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Attachment: Overview of Fuel Cell Research at UMass
CUMIRP program overview