



A National Science Foundation established Industry / University Cooperative Research Center since 1980

Mission Statement: To act as a cross-roads where University research and education meet with Industrial and Government partners in polymer materials, engineering and processing at the University of Massachusetts Amherst to leverage resources and foster partnerships that lead to lasting value collaborations.

The Center: The oldest National Science Foundation established Industry / University Cooperative Research Center (NSF-I/UCRC), established in 1980, has evolved into a dynamic Center program. Its multi-part structure offers flexibility to participating members in tailoring their research programs and objectives. The customized approach allows Sponsors to meet the challenges of integrating cutting-edge science and technology-transfer in a fast-paced business world.

CUMIRP Part I

Part I of CUMIRP retains the NSF-I/UCRC format in which the research costs and results are shared with other members in a focused, team-oriented approach. Research Clusters, targeted toward specific research areas, allow small team dynamics to facilitate interactions and collaboration between Industry Sponsors and University Faculty, Staff and Students. Members of CUMIRP **Part I** can choose which cooperative research areas (Clusters) they wish to support with their membership dues. **Part I** members can obtain a non-exclusive, royalty free license to a University patent resulting from the research done in their specific Research Cluster. Other benefits include invitations to: the member-specific Cluster meetings, the bi-annual meeting featuring topical recent advances in polymer science and engineering, the annual UMass Polymer Poster Symposium and the various Materials Research Science & Engineering Center (MRSEC) meetings and workshops. CUMIRP also assists sponsors in recruiting future employees from the department's graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. CUMIRP **Part I** has structured its fee schedule to be accessible to all sized companies, and encourages small and mid-sized companies to participate. Membership dues for the **Part I** Clusters are tiered at \$10,000, \$20,000 and \$30,000 for small (<\$100 M sales), medium (\$100 M - \$1 B sales) and large companies (>\$1 B sales), respectively. This dues schedule, along with a 40% discount for a second research cluster membership and additional discounts for the *Membership-at-Large* option, makes Industrial participation an affordable and attractive investment for accessing the leading-edge polymer research at the University of Massachusetts. The sharing of research and patent costs by Cluster members allows for a tremendous leveraging of a sponsor's membership dues. Industrial Sponsors from all sized companies find the cooperative Research Cluster concept a great value for their research dollar.

CUMIRP Part II

Part II of CUMIRP is structured so a company can support targeted research with a faculty member (or team of faculty) having related expertise and their directed post-doctoral employee(s) or graduate student(s). CUMIRP **Part II** can be viewed by industry Sponsors as a University extension of their own advanced research and product development programs. Sponsor and University researchers can collaboratively design projects to meet the Sponsor's unique needs and objectives, while leveraging access to the University's comprehensive equipment and facilities and building relationships with faculty. Sponsors of **Part II** research pay the associated costs of conducting the project, and have a first option to obtain an exclusive license to any resulting University patent. **Part II** members are invited to attend CUMIRP and MRSEC lectures, meetings and symposia, and memberships can accommodate visiting industry researchers. CUMIRP **Part II** is the preferred format for Sponsors desiring to achieve directed results while preserving their rights to access and commercialize outcomes of the developed technology. **Part II** Sponsors also have the option to join a **Part I** Cluster at a 40% reduction in dues.

CUMIRP Part III

Part III of CUMIRP is for Unrestricted Research Grants which allow for creative and unrestricted use of funds by the UMass Faculty. Resident Industrial CUMIRP

Research Professorships, Internships and funding of Industrial Lectureships are also possible. CUMIRP **Part III** unrestricted grants carry a beneficial lower University overhead rate and its membership offers significant flexibility. Similar to **Part I** and **Part II**, Sponsors electing **Part III** memberships are invited to CUMIRP and MRSEC lectures, meetings and symposia.

CUMIRP Part IV

Part IV of CUMIRP provides participants a venue to scope out potential programs through idea development and concept feasibility in short duration, focused research studies. The research projects are conducted under a Memorandum of Understanding which incorporates the basic framework of a research agreement with a brief statement of work and project objectives. **Part IV** is recommended as a means for concept exploration to establish initial feasibility and preliminary results, to help provide research direction and determine whether a longer term research program (**Part II**) is warranted. This mechanism leverages faculty expertise, specialized research services and comprehensive facilities, which can facilitate defining a high-quality research program. **Part IV** projects carry a lower University overhead rate, thereby maximizing your short term research funds. This program is available on a limited basis with agreement of the individual faculty member and the CUMIRP Director.



Silvio O. Conte National Center for Polymer Research on the UMass/Amherst campus. The office wing (above - 39,000 sq.ft.) is connected to a laboratory complex (133,000 sq.ft.) equipped with extensive state-of-the-art equipment and instrumentation and houses the Polymer Science & Engineering Department, the NSF Materials Research Science & Engineering Center (MRSEC), the NSF Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center (CHM) the DOD Energy Frontier Research Center (PHaSE), and the Center for the University of Massachusetts Industry Research on Polymers (CUMIRP).

Management of CUMIRP

CUMIRP is managed by a full-time director and is governed by a Steering Committee composed of five members of the University Faculty. An Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) provides feedback to the Steering Committee on CUMIRP policies and operations. Board members are active sponsors in the CUMIRP program.

Contact Information

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