



Virtual Centre of Excellence in Mobile & Personal Communications – Mobile VCE –

OVERVIEW

MOBILE VCE

Mobile VCE is a not-for-profit company, comprising a collaborative partnership of around fifteen of the world's most prominent telecommunications companies working with the UK's leading research Universities with relevant specialist expertise. Originally a UK initiative, today Mobile VCE has global membership and has developed an international reputation, with a network of alliances outside Europe, including leading research institutions in North America, China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan.

The company was formed as an outcome of the UK Government 1996 Foresight Exercise and is endorsed and supported by the Department for Business, the Technology Strategy Board and the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council. It enjoys good relationships with other Government and Industry bodies, worldwide. For more information please see <http://www.mobilevce.com>

WORLD CLASS, INDUSTRIALLY RELEVANT, LONG TERM, RESEARCH

This is the key mission of Mobile VCE – in personal communications & related technologies – pioneer research to enable novel industry growth opportunities. The company has pioneered new collaborative processes whereby our industrial members pro-actively define and steer the research, which is undertaken by pan-university teams drawn from our academic members. Over time strong and sustained relationships have been established which contribute at a fundamental level to the effectiveness of the organisation.

CORE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

All Members participate, share results and enjoy royalty free access to IPR from Core Research, which forms our primary activity. The first core programme commenced in 1997, and was overseen by nominated experts drawn from our Industrial Members. Mechanisms have developed and strengthened, but the central concept of Industry Steering Groups to oversee and manage the research programmes has been retained as a highly effective model. Current programmes address Green Radio, Flexible Networks, User Interactions for Breakthrough Services and 'Instant Knowledge' - a new type of secure information service for business users. Some £2.2m of research will be undertaken for our industry members in 2010, all available in return for a subscription of £45k, providing high leverage of company research budgets.

ELECTIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Elective programmes are typically nearer-term and are initiated & defined by individual companies. Proposals are circulated amongst the full membership, an appropriate university is identified and a programme is defined by the companies who choose to get involved. These companies fund the activity as a shared-cost programme, thereby leveraging research budgets. With minimum bureaucracy, such programmes can be launched quickly. Unlike Core research, only participating companies, rather than all members, have access to the IPR & results of elective research.

INDUSTRY MEMBERSHIP

Global companies in the telecommunications industry see Mobile VCE as a highly effective mechanism to access the UK's acknowledged research strengths and to secure high financial leverage on their research budgets. Representatives of these companies define & steer the research, enabling their companies to derive many benefits, reflecting their differing strategies, interests, positions and roles within the global industry. Member companies include Alcatel-Lucent, BBC, BT, Fujitsu, Huawei, NEC, Nokia Siemens Networks, Orange (France Telecom), Samsung, Thales, Toshiba, Turner & Vodafone. Membership is open – companies from the communications, broadcasting, information technology, semiconductor & related industries worldwide are welcomed as new members. Our breadth across geography and value chain is a vital contributor to the global vision that defines and directs our research.