



Virtual Centre of Excellence in Mobile and Personal Communications - Mobile VCE -

ELECTIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

WHAT IS ELECTIVE RESEARCH ?

Unlike Mobile VCE's Core research, an Elective research programme is one in which our industrial members choose ('elect'), or decline, to participate. The programme is funded by this subset of the Mobile VCE Industrial membership; those same companies are the only ones who share the benefits of involvement in, and any patents arising from, the research.

WHO PARTICIPATES ?

Elective research may be a single- or multi-company activity, depending on the level of shared interest. Usually a single company will initiate a programme idea – Mobile VCE will then circulate the proposal and a group of member companies will emerge with shared interest.

WHY ?

The elective mechanism enables companies to commission a focussed, customised, programme of research and, if there is wider member company interest in participating, to share the costs, thereby leveraging research budgets. Mobile VCE offers a rapid and efficient means of pulling partners together and placing the contracts.

WHO INITIATES AN ELECTIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ?

An elective programme is usually initiated by an Industrial Member who has identified a clear requirement or opportunity that his company wishes to explore. Mobile VCE can assist in identifying a suitable research team and then works with the team to prepare a Programme Description for issue to industrial participants for approval and confirmation of funding.

WHAT ARE THE SCOPE AND SIZE OF AN ELECTIVE PROGRAMME ?

Scope and size are determined entirely by the industrial members, reflecting their needs. The research programme may address an area completely distinct from Mobile VCE's Core research or a topic which began under a Core programme but was subsequently not pursued (eg due to lack of broad member interest or because it had passed the early research stage).

HOW IS THE PROGRAMME MANAGED ?

Similar procedures are employed as for Mobile VCE's Core research programme. An Industrial Steering Group is established, staffed by the funding companies. Administrative support is provided by the Mobile VCE office, with costs of this borne by the participants.

WHAT ABOUT ACCESS TO RESULTING RESULTS AND IPR ?

In essence, the standard Mobile IPR Agreement is applied to Elective Research, with the modification that the word 'Member' in the standard agreement is replaced by the word 'Participant'. Thus access to the research results and any patents filed is restricted to the companies who choose to fund the research.

To explore the possibility of initiating a new elective research programme, please contact the Mobile VCE office on +44 1256 338604, or e-mail walter.tuttlebee@mobilevce.com