



University
of Agder



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR RESEARCH COLLABORATION

BETWEEN

UNIVERSITY OF AGDER, Norway

AND

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (IIT), MANDI, MANDI HIMACHAL
PRADESH, INDIA

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") is effective as of the 24th April 2024 by and between University of Agder, Norway having its office at Gimlemoen 25, 4630 Kristiansand, Norway, herein referred to as UiA which term shall unless is repugnant to the context include its successors, representatives, administrators and permitted assigns of the FIRST PARTY,

And

Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, is a body corporate incorporated under the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 and having its office at **VPO Kamand, District Mandi - 175005, INDIA**, is a research and educational institution of national importance, hereinafter referred to as "**IITMandi**" which term shall unless is repugnant to the context include its successors, representatives, administrators and permitted assigns of the SECOND PARTY,

The aforesaid institutions are hereinafter referred to individually as the Party and collectively as the Parties.

Introduction:

IITMandi is one of the premier institutes to provide meaningful education, to conduct original research of the highest standard and to provide leadership in technological innovation for the industrial growth of the country. IITMandi imparts and undertakes cutting-edge research in various areas of science, engineering, and humanities.

Whereas, University of Agder (Norwegian: Universitetet i Agder) is a public university with campuses in Kristiansand and Grimstad, Norway. The institution was established as a university college in 1994 with the merger of six colleges and was granted its current status as a university in 2007, but its academic activity dates as far back as 1839. It is one of eight universities in Norway.

The Parties wish to work towards promoting academic cooperation. The degree of mutual interest is so great that considerable advantage may be gained from their pursuit on a collaborative basis.

NOW THEREFORE IN CONSIDERTION OF THE MUTUAL COVENANTS, CONTAINED HEREIN, THE PARTIES HERETO AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Objectives:

Both the Parties agree to collaborate towards promoting academic cooperation. The purpose of this Agreement is to develop scientific, academic, and educational cooperation based on equality and reciprocity and to promote relations between Faculty members of **UiA** and **IITMandi** under the mutual understanding of the Parties (hereinafter referred to as the "Academic Cooperation").

The Parties undertake to promote and develop the Academic Cooperation as follows:

1. Exchange of academic staff, administrative staff, and students;
2. Joint co-supervision for graduate research students;
3. Joint data collection and sharing;
4. Academic and research collaboration in the areas of mutual interest;
5. Exchange of academic information, scholarly information, materials, and publications;
6. Conducting cooperative seminars, workshops, and other academic meetings in physical or virtual formats for students and faculty from both institutions; and,
7. Adjunct faculty appointments from one institution in the other institution.
8. Joint PhD scholar supervision.
9. The terms of any activity relating to areas identified will be agreed on an individual basis and will be subject to a separate memorandum of agreement between the two parties which will detail the respective obligations of each party.
10. The two institutions recognize the benefits of expanding communication on educational matters, the sharing of resources and expertise, and the development of joint projects within the fields of education, research, innovation and cultural exchange. Working agreements between different Colleges, Schools, Institutes, Faculties or Departments at the two partner institutions may be added as addenda to this MOU and may include:
11. Education
 - a. The development of joint educational projects where external funding can be sought (for example, from HK-Dir (the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Competence), NFR (the Research Council of Norway), or other national or international sources).
 - b. Exchange of students (non-degree) and staff between the two institutions with the waiving of tuition fees
 - c. Both institutions will support collaboration between interested Colleges, Schools, Institutes, Faculties, or Departments through existing visiting lecturer schemes and invitations to symposiums and conferences.

12. Joint Research

- a. Both institutions will support collaboration between interested Colleges, Schools, Institutes, Faculties, or Departments in developing joint research projects within relevant academic areas
- b. Joint efforts and co-authorship of publications

The Parties will work out a specific plan for any activity mentioned above; and mutually discuss the detailed arrangements for collaboration. The terms and conditions for such activity such as deliverables, funding, roles of developers, intellectual property sharing will be specified in a separate project specific arrangement.

2. Intellectual Property Rights:

Ownership of any background intellectual property (including but not limited to confidential information, know-how, patents, copyrights, design rights, rights relating to computer software, and any other industrial or intellectual property rights) shall remain with the Party owning it.

Ownership of any intellectual property (including but not limited to confidential information, know-how, patents, copyrights, design rights, rights relating to computer software, and any other industrial or intellectual property rights) developed during the course of this MoU shall be decided through a separate project specific agreement.

3. Effective date, duration, termination of the MoU:

The MoU shall be effective from the effective date and shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years. The Parties may extend the term in writing. The MoU may be terminated by either Party by giving a written notice of six (6) months to the other Party, mentioning sufficient cause for such termination. However, both the Parties will ensure that the provisions of this MoU shall continue to apply to all activities in progress until their completion. Clauses 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 shall survive the termination or expiration of this MoU.

The collaboration and fulfillment of the MOU may be based on bilateral agreements concluded between the different Colleges, Schools, Institutes, Faculties or Departments at the two institutions as necessary.

4. Confidentiality:

- a. Confidential information includes all communication of information disclosed in documentary or tangible form between the Parties, including oral, written and machine-readable form, pertaining to the above which is indicated as confidential. In the case of such information disclosed orally or visually, the Disclosing Party shall confirm in writing the fact and general nature of each disclosure within (30) days after it is made.
- b. Confidential information includes information:
 1. Disclosed by or on behalf of the Disclosing Party to the Receiving Party.
 2. Otherwise learnt or ascertained by the Receiving Party from inspection and/or evaluation of sample(s) identified by the Disclosing Party as confidential and provided to the Receiving Party by or on behalf of the Disclosing Party (sample(s)) and/or,

3. Otherwise learned or ascertained by the Receiving Party from the Disclosing Party.
- c. The Receiving Party will not disclose confidential information of the Disclosing Party to any other person and use at least the same degree or care to maintain the information confidential as Receiving Party uses in maintaining as confidential its own confidential information, but always at least a reasonable degree of care; due diligence will be taken by both the Parties in maintenance of confidential information.
- d. The Receiving Party will use the confidential information only for the above mentioned purpose.
- e. The Receiving Party will restrict disclosure of the confidential information of the Disclosing Party solely to those employees, subsidiaries, parent or affiliated companies of Receiving Party having a need to know such information in order to accomplish the purpose stated above.
- f. This MoU imposes no obligations on Receiving Party with respect to any portion of the confidential information received from Disclosing Party which:
 1. was known to Receiving Party prior to disclosure by Disclosing Party,
 2. is lawfully obtained by Receiving Party from a third party under no obligation of confidentiality,
 3. is or becomes generally known or publicly available other than by unauthorized disclosure,
 4. is independently developed by Receiving Party,
 5. is disclosed by Disclosing Party to a third party without a duty of confidentiality on the third party.
 6. is required by law or decree.
- g. The confidential information shall remain the sole property of the Disclosing Party.
- h. The obligation of non-disclosure of confidential information shall survive for 3 years after expiry/termination of this MoU.

5. No Liability:

Neither Party, nor any of their affiliates nor their or their affiliates respective directors, officers, employees, subcontractor or agents shall be liable to the other Party for any special, incidental, indirect or consequential damages (including, but not limited to, contract, negligence and tort liability) in connection with or arising out of this MoU.

6. Publicity:

Neither Party shall use the name of the other Party or its employees in any advertisement, press release or publicity with reference to this MoU without prior written approval of the other Party, except for necessary governmental disclosures.

7. Independent Contractors:

For the purpose of this MoU, the Parties hereto are independent contractors and nothing contained in this MoU shall be construed to place them in the relationship of partners, principal and agent, employer/employee or joint ventures.

8. Assignment:

This MoU shall not be assigned by either Party without the prior written consent of the other, to any third party. In case of any such assignment, the party taking up the assignment shall succeed to the rights, benefits, titles, duties, interest and obligations and liabilities of the Party making such an assignment under the MoU.

9. Amendment:

Any amendment or variation to this MoU shall be made by a written MoU between the Parties.

10. Arbitration and Governing Law:

This MoU shall not be constructed, governed, interpreted and applied in accordance with the laws of India and the courts of Mandi shall have the execution jurisdiction.

The Parties shall attempt in good faith to resolve promptly any dispute arising out of or relating to this MoU by negotiation. If the matter cannot be resolved in the normal course of business, within ten (10) days after the dispute arises, any interested Party shall give the other Party written notice of any such dispute not resolved, after which the dispute shall be referred to the Director, IITMandi and **UiA** who will jointly resolve the dispute in a spirit of independence, mutual respect, and shared responsibility. In case an amicable settlement of any disputes arising out of or relating to this MoU is not achieved within thirty (30) days after written notice is received, such dispute shall be referred to arbitration under the Rules of Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (as amended from time to time), by one (1) sole arbitrator appointed in accordance with said Rules. The seat of the arbitration shall be Mandi. The arbitration shall be conducted in English language and the award shall be final and binding upon the Parties. Each Party shall bear its own costs of the arbitration unless the arbitrator otherwise directs.

11. This Agreement is not intended to be legally binding. Nothing, therefore, shall diminish the full autonomy of either Party, nor shall any constraints be imposed by either Party upon the other Party in carrying out this Agreement.

12. Management of the Collaboration

University of Agder will nominate a member of staff to act as liaison for this Collaboration who will be responsible for overseeing the Collaboration on behalf of UiA.

IIT MANDI will nominate a member of staff to act as liaison for this Collaboration who will be responsible for overseeing the Collaboration on behalf of IIT MANDI.

13. Funding

Each Party will be responsible for their own costs in relation to activity pursuant to the MoU.

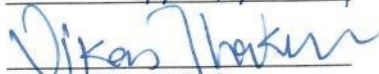
Any costs associated with the provision of any specific products or services by any Party will be subject to separate negotiation and agreement.

The partner institutions are obliged to provide favorable administrative and academic conditions for the development of joint educational collaboration, according to their own possibilities and regulations in force, and the funding available to support the activities mentioned in this MOU.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Parties hereto have signed this MoU on the Effective Date mentioned hereinbefore.

For and on behalf of:
UiA

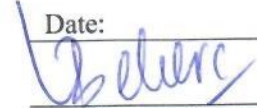
Date: 24/04/2024



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For and on behalf of:
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Date: _____



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