

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

1. What are the main membership benefits for companies?

Answer:

- Companies receive the results of all member-funded projects including an option for non-exclusive, royalty-free licenses to inventions (or an exclusive royalty-bearing license if no other members exercise their option).
- Company research dollars are leveraged at a current ratio of 20:1 giving companies a good return on their membership fee. In addition, the university waives overhead on membership funds.
- Companies are able to recruit experienced researchers and students from the Center.
- Companies receive opportunities to network and share best practices with the center's impressive member companies.

2. How does a company become an IMS Center member?

Answer:

- All companies sign a membership agreement, which is required by the National Science Foundation and the Center. **Membership is NOT A CONTRACT. It is an AGREEMENT for participating in shared research work for leveraged benefits.**
- The membership fee is \$40K/year for a full membership and \$12K/year for small businesses to join as affiliated members. Membership fees are used to fund member research.

3. How are research projects selected and their priority decided?

Answer: All IMS membership projects are discussed and reviewed at Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) meetings twice a year. The IAB, which consists of representatives from each member company, casts their votes (100 points for Full Members or 30 for Affiliate Members) on the projects on their interest. The total points for each project will reflect the priority and importance for funding allocation.

4. Is additional collaboration/research possible?

Answer: Yes. The IMS Center can work with member companies on additional research. Several options exist:

Option A: Company members may send an employee to work at the IMS center.

- No extra charge is required if no company specific work is performed.

Web: www.imscenter.net

- Company pays their engineer's salary and housing.
- Company engineer works on generic IMS center project with IMS staff to gain experience with IMS tools.

- Option B: Company specific project (Contract) with IMS center
- Work will be confidential and exclusive to company.
 - Additional charge (approximately 60K-70K per year per researcher)
 - Contract is required.

Type 1: A company engineer can work at the IMS center with IMS researchers. Company pays engineer's salary and housing.

Type 2: Work can be done by IMS researchers at IMS center.

Type 3: An IMS researcher can work on-site at the member company on a "company specific" research project.

- Option C: An IMS researcher can work on-site at the member company on a shared, member research project.
- Work will be shared with all members.
 - Project will need to be advantageous to and approved by members.

5. How is the company's IP protected when a "company specific" research project is performed?

Answer: IMS researchers and company staff will sign a bilateral non-disclosure/confidentiality agreement for mutual responsibility and security.

6. How is membership renewed?

Answer: Membership is renewed each year by paying the annual membership fee. Companies have options for multi-year payments. The membership due date is based on the effective date of the membership. It varies from company to company depending upon the date joined.