

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
FOR THE CREATION OF THE  
IBERO-AMERICAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
EDUCATION CONSORTIUM (ISTEC/CIECT)**

**PREAMBLE**

Whereas the harmonious development of all countries represents the most appropriate course for scientific, cultural, economic, and social progress, the signatories of this Memorandum of Understanding have joined together to form the Ibero-American Consortium for Education in Science and Technology, demonstrating their intention of making an efficient and significant contribution to the realization of the principle mentioned above.

**DECLARATION**

By signing the present Memorandum, the Ibero-American Consortium for Education in Science and Technology is established; open to Universities and other institutions dedicated to higher education and research, industrial firms, foundations and funding agencies, and other non-profit organizations located in the Americas, Spain, and Portugal; as well as by international entities whose activities encompass, in full or in part, this geographical area.

The objectives of the Consortium are to conceive, plan, and carry out activities of higher education, research and development, and technology transfer, which facilitate scientific and technical progress of the Ibero-American countries. By their very nature, these activities will benefit all participants with the enhancement of knowledge.

These objectives will be initially pursued in the fields of Electrical and Computer Engineering without excluding future extensions into other areas, with the agreement of the members of the Consortium.

The principal activities shall consist of projects for higher education (including post graduate areas), cooperative research and development projects, and the transfer of technology. To this end, other activities such as the holding of seminars and conferences, exchange of professors, researchers, technicians and students, and other similar activities, are useful and will be encouraged and carried out.

The members of the Consortium shall provide for the support of regular activities by means of protocols that meet the requirements of each institution. In addition, the Consortium can accept grants and donations for these concepts or for specific projects.

Members of the consortium may propose specific projects which should include plans for funding the same.

The members of the Consortium declare their conviction that the proposed structure will lead to obtaining important results for progress in education, research, and industry within Ibero-American countries, and express their best intentions to carry to a successful conclusion the implied tasks.

## **ORGANIZATION**

The Consortium consists of the following entities:

- **General Assembly:** all members belong to the General Assembly, the functions of which are to identify the direction of the Consortium, to establish policy, and to approve activity reports of the Executive Committee. The General Assembly has the authority of altering the terms of this Memorandum and of admitting new members.
- **Executive Committee:** whose members are elected by the General Assembly, will carry out the policies established by the General Assembly, will promote Consortium activities, and will have authority to endorse proposals submitted by members. The Executive Committee has the capacity to admit new members on a provisional basis.  
The Executive Committee shall consist of seven members, five of which shall represent non-industrial institutions (one representing Spain and Portugal, one from the U.S.A., and the remaining three from Latin-America) and two from industry, all elected by the general assembly for a period of four years.
- **Secretariat:** for the administrative tasks, and acting as a central source for information and management.

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of the University of New Mexico, in cooperation with the Latin American Institute (at UNM), will provide the Secretariat services until the General Assembly modifies the Secretariat assignment. There will be other support sites with a convenient geographic location.

## **OPERATIONAL CLAUSES**

- The General Assembly shall meet at least every other year in accordance with a schedule established by the Executive Committee in consultation with members of the assembly.
- The Executive Committee will have regular meetings every six months, and whenever it is appropriate for the correct operation of the Consortium, providing funds are available.
- Any member may present a proposal for a particular activity, having first obtained the support of at least one other member, one of them necessarily being a Latin American entity. The proposals shall include, in addition to the appropriate technical aspects, a general outline for a method of obtaining funding.
- Minutes of all meetings of the above bodies shall be distributed to all members of the consortium. The Secretariat shall submit annually a financial report to all members.
- Any member of the Consortium may invite another member for joint meetings to discuss an agenda of topics that fall under the umbrella and interests of the Consortium. The Secretariat should be kept informed of such activities.
- Educational projects shall include the delivery of courses in Latin America by at least one Latin American University. Projects that deal with the design and installation of new

laboratory facilities shall receive special attention. The means for financing the project shall be clearly stated in the proposal.

- For the Consortium to function effectively, the exchange of personnel, especially among universities and related institutions, is of fundamental importance. For this purpose, it is agreed to assign a portion of general resources (amounts to be determined by the General Assembly) for the exchange of faculty, researchers and students. All participating educational institutions shall facilitate and encourage the exchange of personnel. This process should identify an effective mechanism for students of one institution to obtain a degree at other participating institutions. Educational institutions will determine any special conditions that govern the matriculation of said students, and the transfer of course records between institutions.
- Organizations may withdraw from the Consortium giving advance written notice. Where possible, any pending activities of an institution that wishes to withdraw shall be concluded as originally scheduled.

Albuquerque, New Mexico, U.S.A.  
December 4, 1990