



IIT Mandi iHub and HCI Foundation

CIN: U73100HP2020NPL008102

Regd. Office: IIT Mandi, VPO Kamand, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, India – 175075

HGB No. 03/2021-22

IIT MANDI IHUB AND HCI FOUNDATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF Hub Governing Body (the “HGB”) OF IIT MANDI IHUB AND HCI FOUNDATION (the “Company” or the “TIH” or “iHub”) HELD ON THURSDAY THE 13TH DAY OF JANUARY 2022 AT 11:00 A.M. AT GUEST HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM, IIT MANDI, NORTH CAMPUS, VPO KAMAND, DISTRICT MANDI, HP, INDIA-175075.

IN ATTENDANCE – HGB MEMBERS

I. Chairman:

1. Prof. Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi, Director, IIT Mandi

II. Academic Representatives:

1. Dr. Venkata Krishnan, Dean (SRIC & IR), IIT Mandi
2. Dr. Prem Felix Siril, Dean Faculty, IIT Mandi
3. Dr. Arnav Bhavsar, Associate Professor, IIT Mandi
4. Dr. Srinivasan Narayanan, Professor, IIT Kanpur

III. Industry Representatives:

1. Dr. Balamuralidhar P. Principal Scientist & Head, TCS Innovation Labs
2. Dr. Sushil Chandra, Scientist 'G' & Addl. Director, INMAS, DRDO
3. Mr. Saurav Mittal, Senior Advisor, IIT Mandi Catalyst

IV. DST representative

1. Dr. K. R. Murali Mohan, Mission Director, NM-ICPS; Scientist-G & Head, Frontier & Futuristic Technologies Division, DST

V. Project Director

1. Dr. Varun Dutt

Special Invitee:

Prof. Laxmidhar Behra, Director (Designate), IIT Mandi

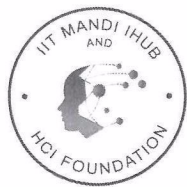
IN ATTENDANCE – MANAGEMENT TEAM

1. Mr. Avinash Punekar, CEO, IIT Mandi iHub and HCI Foundation
2. Mr. Ankush Pathania, Associate, IIT Mandi iHub and HCI Foundation
3. Ms. Navdha Bhardwaj, Associate, IIT Mandi iHub and HCI Foundation

Roll Call

Workplace: IIT Mandi iHub and HCI Foundation Office, A17, Second Floor, North Campus, IIT Mandi, VPO Kamand, District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh - 175075

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On the commencement of the meeting, a roll call was made and the directors attending the meeting through Video Conferencing, made the following confirmations:

Sr. No.	Name	Location	Received the agenda and relevant material facts of the meeting	No person other than him, other Directors, and Management Team is attending or have access to the proceedings of the meeting
1	Prof. Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi, Director, IIT Mandi	IIT Roorkee	Yes	Yes
2	Dr. Venkata Krishnan, Dean (SRIC & IR), IIT Mandi	IIT Mandi	Yes	Yes
3	Dr. Prem Felix Siril, Dean Faculty, IIT Mandi	IIT Mandi	Yes	Yes
4	Dr. Arnav Bhavsar, Associate Professor, IIT Mandi	IIT Mandi	Yes	Yes
5	Prof. Srinivasan Narayanan, Professor, IIT Kanpur	IIT Kanpur	Yes	Yes
6	Dr. Balamuralidhar P. Principal Scientist & Head, TCS Innovation Labs	Bangalore	Yes	Yes
7	Dr. Sushil Chandra, Scientist 'G' & Addl. Director, INMAS, DRDO	Delhi	Yes	Yes

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8	Mr. Saurav Mittal, Senior Advisor, IIT Mandi Catalyst	Dharamshala	Yes	Yes
9	Dr. K. R. Murali Mohan, Mission Director, NM-ICPS; Scientist-G & Head, Frontier & Futuristic Technologies Division, DST	Delhi	Yes	Yes
10	Dr. Varun Dutt, Project Director, iHub	IIT Mandi	Yes	Yes
11	Dr. Laxmidhar Behra, New Director, IIT Mandi	IIT Kanpur	Yes	Yes

3.1. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING

Prof. Ajit K. Chaturvedi was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the meeting. He occupied the chair and welcomed the other members and the management team.

3.2. ASCERTAINMENT OF THE QUORUM AND GRANT A LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBERS, IF ANY.

The Chairperson confirmed that the requisite quorum for the HGB Meeting was present and started proceedings of the meeting.

No leave of absence was granted.

3.3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING OF THE HGB HELD ON 30TH JUNE 2021

The HGB was apprised that the minutes of the HGB Meeting (02/2021-22) held on Tuesday, 30th June 2021, were entered in the minute book within the prescribed time limit and were signed/approved by all the members.

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3.4. TO TAKE A NOTE OF THE REPORTING ITEMS

The HGB is apprised about the following items:

- iHub has received provisional 12AB and 80G exemptions from the Income Tax department.
- iHub has also received approval for the CSR funds.
- iHub has also received SIRO recognition.
- IIT Mandi has 18,820 sq. Ft. space for iHub for its operations.
- iHub has a total strength of 6 employees.
- iHub is registering Trademarks for conferences and journals in ICPS
- iHub has released the undergraduate fellowship 25 undergraduates are working on different projects for iHub.
- iHub in collaboration with the IIT Mandi Catalyst (TBI) has released a specific call for HCI-related startups. Under this we selected startups for different schemes:
 - Start-ups & Spin-off companies - 10
 - GCC - Grand Challenges & Competitions - 1
 - Promotion and Acceleration of Young and Aspiring technology entrepreneurs (PRAYAS) - 6
 - CPS-Entrepreneur In Residence (EIR) - 1
 - Dedicated Innovation Accelerator (DIAL) - 1
 - CPS-Seed Support System (CPS- SSS) - 1
 - Job Creation - 24
- iHub has signed MoU with the following companies:
 - ITRA Japan
 - Neuroleap
 - Rubiscape
- iHub has also purchased Unity Academic Alliance for training purposes. iHub is launching a Unity 3D Basics program in collaboration with ITRA soon.
- iHub has also proposed to the BoD a CXD program that is approved by the BoD. iHub is launching this program very soon.

3.5. AGENDA ITEM 5: FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS ON THE PROCUREMENT POLICY

The HGB was apprised that iHub had formed its procurement policy and the same was not approved by the BoD. However, there are certain grey areas where further clarification is required. For example Make in India requirement, Class 1/Class 2 certification, etc. It was pointed out that in the sanction letter it was clearly mentioned that the GFR is to be followed for the procurement. But in the minutes of the 2nd MCC meeting, it was suggested to follow the GFR in spirit. Clarification was sought from the HGB members whether iHub has to follow GFR in toto or can follow its own procurement policy. iHub also informed the HGB that its policy is in alignment with GFR but the ultimate power resides with the BoD regarding the approvals.

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After discussion, it was clarified by the DST representative member of the HGB that the GFR mentioned in the sanction letter was only applicable for the Host Institute (HI) as the first tranche was released to the HI. After the formation of the section 8 company, the funds were moved to the company and the company has to follow the MCA and company laws. After clarification, the HGB instructed iHub to form its policies, get them approved by the BoD and notify the RoC and DST. The policies are not required to follow GFR in letter but in spirit and follow the principles of “Accountability, Transparency, Responsibility, and Equity”. It was also clarified that the policy should not be constrained by ‘Make In India’ guidelines or ‘Class 1’ or ‘Class 2’ or ‘Proprietary Article Certificate’ requirements in view of focussing on cutting-edge technologies. It was also mentioned that any future audit of the expenditure will be based on the BoD approved policies not based on the GFR. .

3.6. AGENDA ITEM 6: CLARIFICATION ON THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND ASSETS

The HGB was informed that iHub has released the call for proposals in February 2021 and it is in the final stage of the allotment process. The objectives of TIH as defined by NM-ICPS demand it to take a more business-like approach as described below:

As per the 2nd MCC minutes (4.8) (Annexure - 1), the CFP program should not be run on a grant model and cannot be an open sky research program. Also, as a company, the iHub needs to build and maintain its assets in order to make it a sustainable entity. In view of the above and as per company law/practices, all purchases should be in the name of iHub and should be in the inventory of iHub even if it is located elsewhere. Also, all these assets should be brought back to iHub at the closure of the projects. To resolve this, the HGB needs to clarify whether the purchases should be done centrally by iHub, as it would allow better prices and financial control, or just grant funds to the PI who purchases the items and then return them after the project is over.

In view of the above, iHub should be signing separate MoUs for each project and following a quarterly milestone-based approach. A similar approach has been adopted by iHub Drishti, IIT Delhi TIH, and others. Some of the key points for the engagements would be:

- Milestone based fund release
- Quarterly progress review - technical and non-technical
- iHub interest protection on IP generated via the project during the project and post-project
- Central equipment purchase for projects
- Project-specific staff utilization monitoring

Additional inputs/suggestions were sought from the HGB members to ensure that iHub policies and practices are conducive to achieving its target.

- After discussion, it was suggested by the HGB members that the milestone-based fund release is a good idea and should be followed. Proper guidelines should be formulated by the iHub.
- Regarding the quarterly review, the HGB suggested that there should be an independent body for the review so that there is no conflict of interest. Also, the review panel may include some HGB

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members. It was also suggested to have more frequent (monthly) reviews in the initial phase of the project which could then be made as a quarterly process after the project gains momentum.

- All projects would ensure that the resultant IP would be in the name of IP creators but all commercialization rights would be with the iHub. The IP Policy of iHub would apply to all projects and any variation would require approval from the BoD.
- As iHub is required to build its assets, the equipment purchase would be handled by iHub directly. However, the consumables, contingencies could be provided for maintenance, etc to the PI and needs to be budgeted in the proposal. These purchases can be made directly by the PI. The detailed description will be spelled out in the MoU's on a case-by-case basis.
- All staff hired for the projects funded by iHub are to be exclusively used for iHub projects only and would be governed by iHub's IP Policy and terms & conditions.

3.7. AGENDA ITEM 8: DIRECTION AND PATHWAYS FOR THE FUTURE OF IHUB

Guidance and suggestions for the future of the iHub were asked from the HGB members in the following areas:

1. For the next Call for Proposals
2. Collaboration with different industries and institutes that can help iHub
3. Different Skill Development activities
4. Better reach for the Faculty Fellow and other advertisements so that a potential candidate can be found

After discussion, the HGB suggested that the call for proposals should be based on the problems and should not be an 'open sky research'. All the problems of industries and PSU's can be identified and particular calls can be made. It was also pointed out that iHub should have more industrial contacts so that the projects can be translated into products otherwise there is no use of the R&D projects. It was also suggested to have collaborations with the industries and research institutes.

Dr. Ajit Kumar
Chaturvedi

Dr. Venkata
Krishnan

Dr. Prem Felix Siril

Dr. Arnav Bhavsar

Dr. Srinivasan
Narayanan

Dr. Balamuralidhar
P.

Dr. Sushil Chandra

Mr. Saurav Mittal

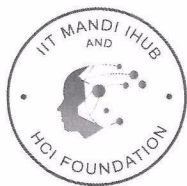
Dr. K. R. Murali
Mohan

Dr. Varun Dutt

Mr. Avinash Puneekar
(CEO, iHub)

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Annexure - 1

There should be single portal among all hubs for inviting Call For Proposals and hubs can work together to develop such portal. Hubs are not encouraged to spend money in outsourcing the development of such individual portals. Hubs are not a replacement of SERB or DST in providing grants for research or DST has not outsourced such activity to Hubs. All calls should be based on requirement and to meet a particular product development. A generalised open sky research is required but not under this Mission. For promoting open sky research there are agencies like SERB, DST and other Govt Departments, Mission expects an outcome based target oriented time bound delivery. It is not business as usual in the sense that DST provided a big project (budget) and it should be distributed to various academic institutes and submit UC/SEs at the end of the project. Tripartite agreement clearly defined the set targets, achievement in each category is absolute requirement to move into next phase of releases. In absence of clear-cut delivery, some of the Hubs may get closed mid-way or reduction in the overall approved budget of the Hubs. Thus, the Mission should not be treated as business as usual. A rudimentary unified portal for inviting proposals for all hubs, shall suffice the requirements.

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