

C3iHub Governing Body

Minutes

For the 1st Meeting

on

Monday, 28 September 2020

via

Google Meet

**Prof. Manindra Agarwal
(Project Director)
30/09/2020**

Members present:

1. Professor Abhay Karandikar (Director, IIT Kanpur), chairman
2. Professor Partha P Chakrabarti (IIT Kharagpur), member
3. Professor Y Narahari (IISc Bangalore), member
4. Shri K S Somasundaram (National Stock Exchange), member
5. Shri Ashish Khushu (L&T Technology Services), member
6. Shri Meenu Singhal (Schneider Electric India), member
7. Dr K R Murali Mohan (DST), member
8. Professor Sandeep Shukla (IIT Kanpur), member
9. Professor Manindra Agrawal (IIT Kanpur), member-secretary

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Welcome by Chairman

Chairman of the Hub Governing Body, Professor Abhay Karandikar, welcomed all the members and thanked them for being a part of the governing body.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: To grant leave of absence

All the members of the governing body were present.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: To note the name and logo of the Hub.

The proposed name and logo were noted by the governing body. It was suggested that multiple versions of the logo should be created for different use cases.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Presentation on Status and Future Plans.

A presentation was made by Professor Manindra Agarwal, Program Director and member-secretary of Hub Governing Body, on the current status of C3iHub and plans for future. In the ensuing discussion, Dr Murali Mohan, the DST representative, shared the following information with the governing body:

1. A total of 25 Technology Innovation Hubs in cyberphysical systems have been set up by DST at different institutions. After two years, based on performance evaluation, four of these will be selected for elevation to Technology Translation Research Parks.
2. The primary interest of DST is that the targets are met. These targets are minimum numbers and Hubs are encouraged to set higher targets. DST has reached out to all ministries to identify their requirements in cybersecurity which will be shared with the C3iHub subsequently.
3. A major focus of the Hubs should be in supporting and promoting startups.
4. DST will release funds in two categories: capital and revenue. The remaining division of the funds is to be done by the governing body.
5. A Mission Governing Board (MGB) has been set up for evaluating performances of the Hubs and has all the financial powers of sanctioning budget to Hubs.
6. The evaluations of Hubs will be done by a Scientific Advisory Committee that will report to MGB.
7. For the release of next tranche of funding, a tripartite agreement will need to be signed between DST, IIT Kanpur, and C3iHub.

Shri Ashish Khushu welcomed the initiative, especially is focus on taking the technology to the deployment stage and co-development of technologies with industries. While appreciating the idea of promoting startups, he cautioned that many startups run into scaling issues and advised that C3iHub needs to ensure high level of maturity in graduating startups.

Shri Somasundaram made the point that most of the technologies in cybersecurity are from outside the country and there is an urgent need to develop indigenous technologies, especially for critical domains. He suggested that this should be one of the major focus of C3iHub.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: To Note the appointment of Chief Operating Officer.

Professor Agrawal informed the governing body that Ms Tanima Hajra has been offered the position of Chief Operating Officer (COO) of C3iHub and will manage day-to-day running of the activities. He also informed that a search for CEO is underway. The governing body welcomed Ms Hajra and wished her success.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: To note the budget allocations.

Professor Agrawal shared the budget details of C3iHub that have been submitted to DST. As stated by Dr Murali Mohan, the Hub Governing Body has the authority to reappropriate the budget as per the requirements. The budgetary allocation as per the DPR was approved, with the observation that if a need arises in future, the allocation can be revisited.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: To approve the call for proposals.

The governing body approved to take out a call for project proposals in cybersecurity for institutions in the country. It was decided that when the list of problems from DST are received, another call can be made based on it.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: To approve call for Chair Professors and Young Faculty Fellows.

The governing body appreciated the aim of encouraging faculty in various institutions to work on cybersecurity problems. However, it was suggested that

- The selected researchers should get associated with C3iHub, and expectations from them should be clearly stated.
- The selected researchers should be referred as C3iHub Mentors or similar instead of Chairs/Fellows.
- There should be provision to select people from industries also for these positions.

It was decided that the proposal will be modified keeping in mind above suggestions and will be circulated to the governing body for approval.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: To approve transfer of funds to IIT Kharagpur, IISc Bangalore, and IIITA Prayagraj.

After a brief discussion, it was decided that:

- The respective PIs from these institutions will be asked if they wish to procure the major equipment locally or prefer C3iHub to procure and transfer to them. Based on their response, C3iHub should start the procurement process. It was pointed out by Dr Murali Mohan that the MGB has not yet approved the DPRs and so it is better to wait for approval before starting the procurement process.
- As immediate measure, budget for manpower, consumables and contingency

may be released to the three institutions.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Any other item with the permission of the chairman.

Professor Sandeep Shukla was formally made a joint Project Director along with Professor Agrawal.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

Date of entry in minutes book:



Chairman



Project Director

Date:

Place: Kanpur

Date: 5/10/20

Place: Kanpur