

Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Hub Governing Body (HGB) of IIITB COMET Foundation

Attendees:

1. Prof. Debabrata Das (Chairman)
2. Prof. Uday B Desai
3. Dr. Kumar Sivarajan
4. Mr. Samir Kumar
5. Prof. R Chandrashekar
6. Mr. Rohit Kumar (Special invitee, representing Mr. Vishvajit Sahay, Financial Adviser, DST)
7. Mr. Amudheesan Nakkeeran (Note taker)
8. Prof. Prem Singh (to present on project progress)
9. Prof. Vinod Reddy (to present on project progress)

Minutes of the meeting:

1. The Chairman welcomed the attendees and set the agenda for the meeting.
 - a. Update on COMET activities
 - b. Report of the Project Monitoring and Review Committee (PMRC)
 - c. Presentation of financial accounts for FY 2022-23
2. The Chairman updated the HGB on COMET success stories including the contributions of Prof. Kiran Kuchi (COMET collaborator) towards the "Bharat 6G Vision" document, and the success of the "Future Wireless Communication" certificate program. He also shared the impact of COMET collaborators Prof. Arzad, Prof. Prem, and Prof. Ekant in their roles towards standardization working group SGN TP #30e focussing on Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces (RIS) for Wireless Communication at TSDSI.
3. The Chairman then presented the reports of the PMRC for all the four projects funded by COMET, and the qualitative assessment of those projects by the Board of Directors (BoD). The PMRC had found all the projects to be on the right track and had recommended continuation of all four funded projects.
4. The HGB were happy with the progress of the projects so far and recommended continuation of the projects. They had the following suggestions regarding Technology Development.
 - a. Dr. Kumar suggested that COMET and COMET collaborators should continue to contribute towards the standardization efforts at TSDSI. He also suggested that COMET should be more actively engaged in the training efforts.

- b. Dr. Kumar, Mr. Samir, and Prof. Uday suggested that COMET should encourage the RIS testbed at IIIT Naya Raipur (as part of the Smart Radio Environments project) to be opened up to the industry as well, in addition to Indian academia.
 - c. Dr. Kumar suggested that COMET should soon begin commercialization efforts towards the RIS products being built via funded projects. He suggested founding a company towards the same end, with the PIs from the projects as technology officers. He also suggested that the product can be commercialized/used in 5G for sub-6GHz bands to improve network performance.
- 5. The HGB discussed updates on Entrepreneurship Development.
 - a. The discussions with StoneSoup.in regarding building a prototype for an intelligent IoT system to remotely monitor and manage community compost bins using 5G network.
 - b. The Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EiR), Mr. Subraprakash Giri is working on an AI-based spectrum management tool, which has also been selected under C-DoT's Avishkar program.
- 6. Prof. Uday suggested that COMET should reach out to the TIH at IIT Madras and the TIH at IIT Bombay and seek their input and feedback regarding IP Management issues.
- 7. The HGB discussed presented updates on Human Resource Development including fellowships awarded, skill development programs conducted, and the Future Wireless Communication (FWC) program.
- 8. The HGB had the following suggestions for COMET on Human Resource Development.
 - a. Dr. Kumar suggested that COMET should better advertise the skill development programs like the online workshops. He suggested that the advertisements be sent to TSDSI, other TIHs, and the HGB for further reach.
 - b. Prof. Uday appreciated that a good number of fellowships have been awarded at the doctoral level, which are active across several institutes.
- 9. The Finance team of COMET then presented the audited financial accounts for FY 2022-23, concluding with the funding requirements for the projects in the upcoming year (which were approved earlier by the BoD).

10. The HGB concurred with the BoD on the funding requirements for the projects in the upcoming year.

Sl. No.	Project	Recurring (lakh INR)			Non-recurring (lakh INR)			Total (lakh INR)
		Backlog	Year-2	Total	Backlog	Year-2	Total	
1	5G-Advanced ORAN Massive MIMO Base Station	350.98403	1457.43	1808.41403	1860.90756	1045.5	2906.40756	4714.82159
2	AI Co-Design and Development of 5G Hardware and Software	0	16.5	16.5	0	13.75	13.75	30.25
3	Smart Radio Environments: Implementation and Deployment for Targeted Use-Cases	44.05075	143.10639	187.15714	24	0	24	211.15714
4	Design and Development of New Prototype for RIS-aided Communication	3.9	36.15	40.05	13.3	0	13.3	53.35
Total				2052.12117			2957.45756	5009.57873

11. The HGB had the following suggestions for COMET.

- Prof. Uday was appreciative of the fact that COMET has picked up momentum on several grounds and encouraged to keep up the pace.
- Dr. Kumar was happy with the progress of the hub and suggested that efforts towards self-sustainability should be accelerated. He reiterated that COMET should encourage founding a start-up on the RIS products being built as part of the funded projects.
- Dr. Kumar suggested that COMET should accelerate the finalizing of IPR policy, and then accelerate the support of start-ups in the Advanced Communication Systems (ACS) and allied areas.
- Prof. Uday was happy with the utilization of funds so far and suggested that COMET should immediately reach out to NM-ICPS mission office to release the next round of funds. Mr. Rohit remarked that the disbursement of funds will be quick.

- e. Mr. Samir was appreciative of the progress made by COMET. He suggested that on the entrepreneurship development front, COMET should consider encouraging the FWC graduates towards entrepreneurship. Prof. Uday concurred.

12. The Chairman thanked all the members and concluded the meeting.



Prof. Debabrata Das
Chairman, Hub Governing Body
Project Director, IIITB COMET Foundation

Project Director
IIITB COMET Foundation
A Section 8 Company

