

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS 110316

- 1 QUESTION** **Are you interested in seeing international collaborations within the COE teams?**
- ANSWER** Yes, we are quite open. Three of the VREF CoE's are explicitly based on international collaboration. The Omega Center at the UCL is a cooperative effort between universities in ten different countries; the ACET centre in Cape Town is based on collaboration between University of Cape Town, University of Dar es Salaam and University of Nairobi; and the BRT centre is based on universities in Chile, Portugal, Australia and the US plus an NGO in Brazil. The key issue about international collaboration tends to be management capacity.
- 2 QUESTION** **What does Volvo want to achieve through investment in the COEs?**
- ANSWER** First, for clarification, the Volvo corporation does not invest directly in the FUT Program. The VREF (Volvo research and Educational Foundations) is a group of foundations set up by the Volvo group some 20 years ago. The Foundations are endowed, legally independent and tax-exempt. This means that their missions have to be a public mission such as funding academic research that is open and freely available to anyone. Thus the Volvo group does not have any particular agenda with respect to the research funded by the VREF.
- 3 QUESTION** **Can NGOs be a part of a CoE?**
- ANSWER** Yes under certain conditions:
1. The CoE-node is placed under a university's authority. A Principal receives the grant and is responsible for the repartition of the CoE-budget inside the project. The principal reports the budget's management each year in the progress reports, and at the Mid Term review.
 2. NGO has the duty to report to the principal and to the Foundations the following:
 - a. The organisation is a non profit one.
 - b. How the organisation is financed
 - c. How are the recipients of the money transferred from the CoE to the NGO
- 4 QUESTION** **Can a CoE use the service of a private company and pay them with the grant for their service?**
- ANSWER** Yes under certain conditions:
1. The CoE is authorised to buy services in fields where it has lacks of competency or experience in order to fulfil its research.
 2. The amount will be limited by the Foundations in certain proportion of the financing amount. The Foundations interest is that money will be used as efficiently as possible.

3. The service will clearly defined and restricted to the CoE fields of research.
4. The staff working at the CoE shall not be part of the company nor receive in return money from it.
5. If possible the services should be submitted to many concurring enterprises in order to get a lower price.

5 QUESTION **Could you please let me know if researchers could participate in more than one proposal for a Centre of Excellence?**

ANSWER Yes. You can leave as many applications as you wish if they are relevant.

6 QUESTION **If the application is successful, when is the earliest that funding could commence?**

ANSWER The approved funding is available on requisition during the year following the decision of the Board taken in December.

7 QUESTION **Is it encouraged to submit a grant application that includes additional outside matching grant contributions? In my case, I would be a contributing researcher (not the Principal Investigator) and would bring in funding for my work from an external source.**

ANSWER There is no problem with completing financial resources. We understand the needs and have no problem with the addition of other contributions.