Frequently Asked Questions

What’s the best kind of TMP project?

Just about any opportunity or problem can be addressed. Good project topics deal with matters that are important to the organization, but for which low resources exist. In addition, any area that benefits from an interdisciplinary approach—for example, cost and technology-justification models for prioritizing drug targets—makes an excellent TMP.

The sponsoring company identifies a liaison for the team—what qualifications should this person have?

The corporate liaison plays a crucial role in TMP success. The liaison role is much more than a “when I give time” responsibility. Ideally, team involvement should become an explicit part of the individual’s job description for the duration of the project. One of our most successful corporate liaisons report spending two-four hours weekly on their efforts.

Not only does the liaison help ensure that the project remains on track and that its goals continue to be relevant, but he/she serves as the gateway to the rest of the organization.

Ideally, the liaison is thoroughly knowledgeable about the project topic, has excellent communication skills, and can work successfully with bright young graduate students.

Also, the liaison should have adequate authority within your organization to make timely decisions and obtain organizational buy-in.

How much does a TMP cost?

Additional fees involved?

The two semester TMP fee is $57,500—or about $28/hour for the 2,000-hour student team time commitment. Historically, all costs—including a modest amount of student time—have been covered by this sum. Should significant equipment or technology changes be necessary, students are charged an additional $10,000 per semester. The sponsoring company identifies a liaison for the team—what qualifications should this person have?

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How do we begin?

Send KGI a one paragraph description of your project, including a brief summary of the current situation, and what you hope the outcome would be. See “A TMP in 3 Easy Steps.”

For more information, contact: Donna Bartlett

Address: 535 Watson Dr.

City: Claremont, CA 91711

FAX: (909) 607-9864

TEL: (909) 607-8086

E-mail: diana.bartlett@kgi.edu

Website: www.KGI.edu/Corporate-Partnerships.html
The teams and liaison will establish a regular communications schedule (for example, weekly phone conferences) as well as short- and long-term milestones and deliverables. In addition to solid knowledge of the project topic, the liaisons should possess supervisory experience, communication skills, and an interest in collaborating with and3.

KGI faculty advisors

Our interdisciplinary faculty has current research and business experience in areas such as: bioengineering, computational protein production, genomics, proteomics, cell- based microfabrication technology, DNA amplification and analysis methods, microfluidics; molecular and computational analysis of regulatory networks; strategy and organizational development; regulatory affairs; optimal design of drug therapies, and structural genomics. With a focus on applied research, the faculty’s work has resulted in an extensive portfolio of issued patents. Our interdisciplinary faculty has current research and business experience in areas such as: bioengineering, computational protein production, genomics, proteomics, cell-based microfabrication technology, DNA amplification and analysis methods, microfluidics; molecular and computational analysis of regulatory networks; strategy and organizational development; regulatory affairs; optimal design of drug therapies, and structural genomics. With a focus on applied research, the faculty’s work has resulted in an extensive portfolio of issued patents.

KGI faculty have been funded by organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, the US Department of Energy, the Civilian Nuclear Research Projects Agency, Hudson Foundation, The Seaver Research Foundation, and others.

Deliverables

Since the TMP is a combined educational and industry challenge, KGI and the company work together to define outcomes and deliverables for the teams.

Among its pedagogical requirements, KGI expects each team to present status-to-date reports during interim seminars in the fall and spring. In May, each team must create a comprehensive confidential written report plus a poster presentation. Each team must make a presentation to the KGI community and corporate guests. Each sponsor will identify additional deliverables for its team. These could include data sets, laboratory notes, computer code, business plan creation, completion of SBIR proposals and the like.

Intellectual property

Any intellectual property created by the teams during sponsorship typically remains the property of the company. The insistence of patent protection, KGI will so advise the sponsoring organization.

Confidentiality

Each sponsor must identify additional deliverables for its team. These could include data sets, laboratory notes, computer code, business plan creation, completion of SBIR proposals and the like. Each team needs to solve or the opportunity that needs to be addressed or the opportunity that you are interested in. The following timeline can aid in planning your firm’s TMP.

TMP planning timeline

Every project lifecycle is unique, but the following timeline can aid in planning your firm’s TMP.

**September-December**

Schedule a KGI visit to your site to discuss TMP possibilities.

**November**

Draft a short list of possible projects and get organizational buy-in.

**February**

Submit one page project description to KGI.

**March**

Receive sponsor interest to kick start the project.

**April**

Review, sign and return TMP contract.

**May**

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