MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE ORGANIZATION (ESSO)
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (MoES)

AND

MAHARAJA KRISHNAKUMARSINHJI BHAVNAGAR UNIVERSITY (MKBU), BHAVNAGAR, GUJARAT

PREAMBLE:

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been entered and made on the Twenty Fourth Day of Month June Two Thousand and Fourteen between The President Of India represented through Earth System Science Organization (ESSO), Ministry Of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government Of India, New Delhi (herein referred to as ESSO-MoES) on the Part and the Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar, Gujarat (herein referred to as MKBU) which expression shall unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof be deemed to include their successors in the interest and permitted assignees, on the Other Part.

WHEREAS the ESSO-MoES has desired to establish an Earth Science & Technology Cell (ESTC) with a network project to promote research and to develop human resources required for sustained use of earth sciences and technology for socio-economic benefit of Indian society.

WHEREAS the MKBU has agreed to undertake research and technology development in the discipline “Marine Ecology & Biology (MEB)” of Earth System Sciences (ESS) and extend all the possible support required for carrying out the work at the ESTC-MEB.

WHEREAS ESSO-MoES and MKBU have agreed as follows:
ARTICLE 1 – ESTABLISHMENT OF EARTH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CELL (ESTC)-MEB:

1.1. The MKBU which has expertise, facilities and faculty in the discipline “Marine Ecology & Biology (MEB)” of Earth Systems Sciences (ESS) shall establish the EARTH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CELL (ESTC) in MKBU with the concurrence of ESSO-MoES.

1.2. The ESTC shall function as an Autonomous Cell according to the policy, guidelines and procedures laid down by the Apex committee with the concurrence of MoES.

1.3 Project Coordinator (PC) of network proposal shall officiate to work as overall in charge of the ESTC and will be responsible for coordination of all ESSO-MoES network projects/programs in MKBU, as per ESSO-MoES OM No. MoES/16/29/11 RDEAS (ESTC-NP) dated 23 May 2014.

1.4 PC who shall be senior faculty / Professor in the thrust area of ESTC (MEB) at MKBU shall be appointed for a period of THREE years / Co-terminus with the network project / the term as may be reviewed by SSC for his/her extension.

1.5 The PC will work on honorary basis and the incumbent will not claim any remuneration for officiating duties.

ARTICLE 2 – MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES:

The overall monitoring and periodic review of the progress of the ESTC proposals towards implementation as per objectives and time line will be done by a Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) on discipline Marine Ecology & Biology (MEB) duly constituted by ESSO-MoES and at the ESTC level by the Project Coordinator (PC)/main PI of the ESTC-MEB, MKBU Prof Bharti P Dave. SSC-MEB will report to the
Ministry's Apex Committee. The recommendation/decisions of SSC will be communicated to the concerned PC for taking any appropriate steps as necessary.

Committees with their role are as given below.

2.1 APEX COMMITTEE.

Apex Committee will be chaired by the chairman of Earth System Science Organization (ESSO), Secretary MoES.

Apex committee will be the final approving body for the establishment of new ESTCs recommended by the concerned PAMC/TRB and also continuation of any project under ESTC.

2.2 SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE (SSC):

Overall monitoring and periodic review of the progress of the ESTC network project at MKBU towards implementation as per objectives and timeline will be done by Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) on Marine Ecology & Biology (MEB) chaired by an expert, as per OM on the subject No. MoES/16/29/11 RDEAS (ESTC/SSC-MEB) dated 12 May 2014.

ARTICLE 3 – GRANTS AND FUND DISBURSEMENT:

3.1 Towards the grant for network project being operated at ESTC (MEB), PC shall make a request to MoES for sanction and release of funds at one go for various PIs under the network project and if required for respective SSC (SSC-MEB) meetings.

MoES will examine the request, sanction and release the grant (to PC/all PI/Co-PIs) separately on bi-annual basis. For subsequent release of grants-in-aid, MoES will release the same only if utilization Certificate and audited statement of expenditure (SoE) for the earlier grants are received by MoES which will be submitted by PC in time.
3.2 All grants given to MKBU for ESTC by ESSO-MoES shall be operated through the PC under the management of SSC-MEB.

3.3 The MKBU shall open and maintain a separate account in respect of the grants received from MoES and MoES shall have the right to inspect the accounts.

3.4 The MKBU shall evolve a suitable mechanism for proper financial management in consultation with MoES and render accounts and necessary certificates to MoES as per Government of India norms.

3.5 The General Financial Rules (GFR) in general and its chapter concerning grants-in-aid shall be fully applicable. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) shall have the right to audit the accounts as per the existing rules and regulations. In addition, to that MoES will also have a right to monitor the progress of the project and to inspect and examine the records as and when deemed necessary.

3.6 The funds/grants shall be utilized for the purpose of MoES sanctioned programs/projects only. The machinery, equipment, instruments etc. purchased from the funds/grants of MoES shall remain the property of MoES during and after the project/program.

3.7 In case the scheme is foreclosed or not carried forward, the unutilized funds with the MKBU shall be refunded to MoES and the assets including intellectual property rights/patents will also be reverted to MoES.

3.8 Terms, reference and responsibilities of SSC and PC of ESTC shall be in accordance with OM No. MoES/16/29/11 RDEAS (ESTC-NP) dated 23 May 2014.
ARTICLE 4 – FACILITIES AT ESTC

4.1 All equipment and facilities of ESTC (MEB) used for research and development in the area of Marine Ecology & Biology (MEB) at MKBU shall be pooled and placed under the management of PC as per the requirements of ESTC activities, by MKBU. The availability of equipment and facilities of ESTC/network project to all concerned Scientists/Students will be ensured.

4.2 Additional equipment necessary for augmenting the facilities at ESTC, MKBU for research in MEB (ESS) to the state-of-the-art level, shall be procured under separate grant from MoES. Proposal for establishment of such facilities for ESTC shall be made by PC and submitted to MoES after review and with the recommendations of the SSC-MEB.

4.3 The equipment/facilities of ESTC (MEB) shall be made available to researchers working in this field in other institutions in ESTC in general and in particular for all MoES funded projects. PC shall be responsible to coordinate with other academic and research institutions for maximum utilization of facilities.

4.4 Expenses for post warranty period maintenance of equipments will be borne by the MKBU.

4.5 Data along with summary of analysis, final results and achievements out of network project will be submitted by MKBU/PC/ESTC to ESSO/Program Office ESTC, soon after completion of project.

ARTICLE 5 – INFRASTRUCTURE:

5.1 The requisite basic infrastructure like electricity, building, water supply, etc., shall be made available by MKBU. However, remodeling, modifications and augmentation of the infrastructure facilities etc. will be met out from grant to ESTC (MEB) based on the
specific proposals by PC with the due approval from Apex Committee based on the recommendation of SSC-MEB.

ARTICLE 6 – RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROGRAMME:

6.1 ESSO-MoES will provide fellowships (research fellows and research associates) to ESTC to support the research work of the ESTC as per the guidelines of ESSO-MoES.

6.2 Project proposals could also include requirements of special equipment/facilities etc. Faculty members and Research associates from other institutions could also be associated with these projects, either part-time or full time.

ARTICLE 7 – REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

7.1 The PC of ESTC (MEB) MKBU shall submit consolidated annual progress report indicating the objectives, achievements pertaining to results with their timelines, funds allocated and expenditure incurred etc.

7.2 Socio-economic benefits (if any), apart from technical and R&D achievements shall also form a part of final report.

ARTICLE 8 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR):

8.1 All patent rights and designs and inventions derived from research work funded by the ESSO-MoES shall have joint ownership.

8.2 Government of India however, reserves the rights to invoke the application of patent(s) in public interest without any payments in terms of royalty, fees, etc.

8.3 Publication of results/presentation of papers/reports should clearly acknowledge the funding support from the Ministry of Earth Sciences, as given below-
"The author/authors gratefully acknowledge the financial support given by the Earth System Science Organization, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India" to conduct this research.

ARTICLE 9 – REVIEW AND MONITORING MECHANISM

9.1 The performance of each ESTC on MEB will be evaluated on bi-annual basis by the related SSC (SSC-MEB), as per OM on the subject No. MoES/16/29/11 RDEAS (ESTC/SSC-MEB) dated 12 May 2014.

ARTICLE 10 - VALIDITY OF THE MOU

This Memorandum of understanding will be valid for five years (or till further orders of MoES) which may be extended further based on the performance of the ESTC.

The MoU is signed by the parties by setting their hands on in the presence of witness thereof on THE 24th DAY OF JUNE, 2014.

Signed by

(Dr D R Korat)
VICE CHANCELLOR
Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavnagar University
Bhavnagar

In presence of WITNESS

Prof. N. C. Desai
Dean
Faculty of Science
Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavnagar University
RHAZNAGAR-364002.

Signed by

(Dr S K Das)
Scientific Secretary
Earth System Science Organization (ESSO)
Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)
Govt. of India, New Delhi.