

Appendix G: Brief History of the Co-operative Research Centres Scheme

In December 1992, the Co-operative Research Centres Sub-Committee submitted a preliminary report on its work, preliminary findings and recommendations on the proposed establishment of Co-operative Research Centres (CRC) to the Research Grants Council (RGC). The Sub-Committee identified two areas (Textile & Apparel and Information Technology) to consider for the set up of CRCs in the first exercise of the pilot scheme. In April 1993, the University Grants Committee (UGC), at the request of the RGC, approved allocations from its Central Allocation Vote for 1992-95 that totalled \$4.35 million. This allocation was used as seed funding to support the establishment of three Co-operative Research Centres.

The experience from the pilot exercise indicated that it was possible to interest the industry in working together with tertiary institutions, including leveraging private sector funding. CRC funding could fill a niche in the existing network of funding for

research and applied R&D as seed funding.

Against this background, the RGC agreed to extend the pilot scheme for an additional three years to closely monitor the three CRCs supported, and test the response to CRC in different fields. In the second funding exercise held in 1996-1997, RGC sought additional and top-up funding of HK\$11.7 million from the UGC to support five more CRCs.

In 1998/1999, the UGC allocated \$20 million to the RGC to conduct the third exercise. Eight new CRCs were eventually given funding support. In view of the growing success of the CRC Scheme in promoting university industry collaboration, the UGC agreed to provide an additional \$20 million for a further exercise in the 1998-2001 triennium.

With the additional funding support of \$20 million provided by the UGC, the RGC conducted the fourth funding exercise in 1999-2000. Ten new CRCs were funded.

The list of CRCs funded since 1993-1994 is shown below:

Year of Award	Project Title	Institution	Amount Funded (HK\$m)
1993-1994	The Textile and Apparel CRC	PolyU	1.05
1993-1994	The Open Systems CRC	CityU	1.20
1993-1994	The Wireless Information Technology CRC	HKUST	2.10
1996-1997	The Johnson Controls Intelligent Building CRC	CityU	0.90
1996-1997	The Construction CRC (Phase I) : Geotechnical Centrifuge Modelling	HKUST	2.30
1996-1997	The Optical Fibre Lighting Cables CRC	HKUST	3.00
1996-1997	The Advanced Electronic Packaging and Assembly CRC	HKUST	2.00
1996-1997	The Wireless Information Technology CRC Phase II	HKUST	3.50
1998-1999	Still Image/Video Compression CRC	CityU	1.30
1998-1999	Virtual Reality, Visualisation and Imaging Research Centre	CUHK	3.00

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Year of Award	Project Title	Institution	Amount Funded (HK\$m)
1998-1999	Biometrics Technology Centre for Security Industries	PolyU	0.96
1998-1999	CRC for the Development of III-V Nitride Based Optoelectronic Components	PolyU	2.49
1998-1999	Automation Technology CRC	HKUST	3.00
1998-1999	ATM/IP Telephony Solution CRC	HKUST	3.00
1998-1999	Advanced Cement-based Building Products	HKUST	3.25
1998-1999	CRC for MPEG-4 Based Information Technology	HKUST	3.00
1999-2000	CRC on Conductive Adhesive Technology for High Density Electronic Packaging	CityU	1.796
1999-2000	Development of Microbial-organic Fertilizer Using Sewage Sludge and Other Organic Wastes in Hong Kong	HKBU	2.50
1999-2000	Advanced Research Centre for Spatial Information Technology	PolyU	2.75
1999-2000	Centre for Ground Engineering and Technology	PolyU	1.402
1999-2000	Centre for Computer-aided Construction	PolyU	1.00
1999-2000	Internet Switching Technology Centre	HKUST	2.88
1999-2000	Co-operative Research in Active Matrix Organic Light Emitting Diode Displays	HKUST	1.44
1999-2000	Advanced Composite Materials for Infrastructure Repair	HKUST	2.326
1999-2000	CRC for Soluble Receptor Biology	HKUST	3.00
1999-2000	Biological Waste Disposal of Oil and Fat	HKU	0.906