



December 2, 2016

To: South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA) Executive Committee

From: Joint SCRA / South Carolina (SC) Universities Task Force for Technology-based Economic Development

Re: Strategic Collaboration Agreement to Build the State's Innovation Economy

In the interest of accelerating the innovation economy of South Carolina, we are creating this framework of collaboration among and between SCRA, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), University of South Carolina (USC), Clemson University (CU), and other members of the academic community of the state. This Agreement lays out the framework and intent of our collaboration. Accompanying it as **Exhibit 1** is the SCRA/Universities Collaboration Scope document created jointly by the SCRA and Universities Task Force (collectively the "Team").

Purpose of the collaboration

This collaboration is necessary to align existing and prospective resources to advance the innovation economy of the state. The innovation economy includes technology development and commercialization in both the private and public sector and among entities both large and small. The State of South Carolina has many strengths upon which to build, and we intend to use this collaboration to create better focus, alignment, and pace across all stakeholders—public and private—in building the state's reputation and strength in technology development and commercialization.

Scope of the collaboration

The scope of the collaboration will center on three program areas of excellence focused on specific industry verticals where South Carolina has existing or emerging strengths. These are: Advanced Manufacturing/Advanced Materials; Information Technology; and Life Sciences/Biotechnology. These verticals will be incorporated into the major elements of this collaboration, to include:

- SC Launch
- Shared infrastructure
- Grant services

Participants

Maintaining broad participation will be a key goal of the collaboration. The core of the collaboration includes SCRA, MUSC, USC, and CU. We plan to recruit and have represented other academic institutions within the state including public and private colleges and universities as well as technical colleges. Furthermore, we expect to have broad participation from other stakeholders such as industry, trade associations, state agencies, etc.

Roles within the collaboration

This strategic collaboration requires that we maintain clear roles. SCRA will focus on convening, facilitating, and resourcing the collaboration from available operating funds. All parties will contribute to achieve the goals of the collaboration.

Program management, resourcing and implementation

The Team has had productive, in-depth discussions about program management, resourcing, and implementation. The Team members agree on the scope of the collaboration as specified in Exhibit 1, that SCRA will manage the implementation, and that the other Team members will support SCRA and other participants in the implementation. Exhibit 1 outlines the requirements for the development of action plans inclusive of different funding scenarios. It is important that the Team establishes the prioritization of the specific program areas and that detailed budgets are developed for each program area to ensure appropriate resource allocation.

Governance

Because the Executive Committee of the SCRA Board of Trustees consists of leaders from each of the primary participants to this collaboration, including the research university presidents as well as the Chair of SCRA, and because the Executive Committee meets frequently and is charged with approving the SCRA strategic and annual operating plans, the Executive Committee is the appropriate governing body for this collaboration. The Team members will present the action plans to the Executive Committee for incorporation into the SCRA annual operating plan for the subsequent fiscal year.

Performance goals

This collaboration will develop specific metrics to ensure success in the following goals:

- o Increased research funding via multi-institutional grants and other new funding vehicles
- o Creation and advancement of early-stage, technology-based companies
- o Total capital investment
- o Public/private partnerships generating growth of the state's industry

The collaboration participants will report at least annually to the SCRA Executive Committee on the progress being made in achieving these metrics.

Next Steps

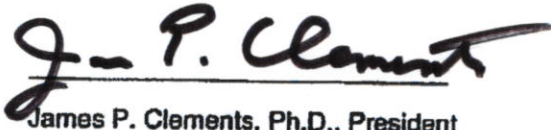
Upon the execution of this Agreement, an SCRA/Academia Collaboration Team (SACT) will be established comprised of one representative from each of the four signatories as well as the state's comprehensive teaching universities and the technical college system. The SACT will oversee the development and implementation of strategies for each of the program areas and corresponding sub-programs.

For University of South Carolina:

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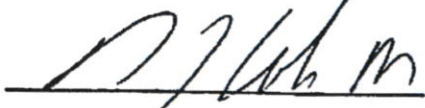
Harris Pastides, Ph.D., President

For Clemson University:

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James P. Clements, Ph.D., President

For Medical University of South Carolina:

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David J. Cole, M.D., FACS, President

For SCRA:

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Robert D. Quinn, Executive Director