



# Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center

Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station

## Center Consortium Membership and Benefits

### 1. Levels of Center Consortium Memberships

There are two levels of membership with voting rights regarding the direction of Center programs through representation on the MKOPSC Steering Committee. Operating firms (25+ employees) may become members for a yearly commitment of \$20,000 (Partner). Engineering firms (25+ employees) may become members for a yearly commitment of \$10,000 (Sponsor). Partners have two (2) votes and sponsors have one (1) vote and enjoy the benefits listed in the following table. Of course, engineering companies may elect to join the Center Consortium at the Partner level if they choose to do so and then enjoy the same benefits as Partners.

To fulfill one of the center's missions -- provide service to small businesses -- a category of Associate for annual membership dues of \$5,000 is available to organizations that employ less than 25 employees. In addition, individuals can become individual members for annual dues of \$1000. Associate Members and Individual Members have access to many of the center's programs, services and activities. Associate and Individual Members may be invited to serve on the MKOPSC Technical Advisory Committee. Because all membership amounts are minimum participation levels companies may opt to increase their membership to a higher level.

A summary of member benefits are summarized in the table below and outlined in detail in Section 2.

Benefits	Partner	Sponsor	Associate	Individual
Membership on the Steering Committee of the Center	X	X		
Facilitated access to pool of skilled graduate students	X	X		
Annual report of the center's research, sponsored activities, and twice-yearly Research highlights	X	X		
Facilitated access to faculty experts in areas related to process safety and risk management technology	X	X		
Discounted fees for symposium, continuing education courses, publications, and other services				
Symposium registration - one complimentary	X			
Preprints of research reports published by the center	X	X		
Free use of computer software developed by the center	X			
Database searches	X			
Ask the Expert	X	X	X	
Symposium proceedings	X	X		
Library and information services	X	X	X	X

## **2. Detailed Benefits of Center Membership**

The total funds raised from center consortium dues are dedicated to MS and PhD projects. These projects are selected by vote of the Steering Committee. A subcommittee on projects (consisting of no more than five SC members or appointees) is charged with selecting project proposals to bring to the full steering committee for vote for funding and implementation.

### **2.1 Membership on the Steering Committee of the Center**

Each Partner and Sponsor organization may place a representative on the Steering Committee of the center. Associate members and individuals may also serve on the Steering Committee as observers, but will not enjoy any voting privileges. The Steering Committee meets at least four times a year on the Texas A&M University campus or other appropriate locations to review the Center's program and discuss research results and direction. This meeting provides Steering Committee members not only an opportunity to influence the research at the center, but also to hear how other companies view critical research issues. Companies choosing the membership at the Partner level will have two votes and companies at the Sponsor level will have one vote on initiatives brought to the Steering Committee.

### **2.2 Facilitated Access to Pool of Skilled Graduate Students**

The Center supports Texas A&M graduate students working on M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in various fields related to process safety and risk management. In addition, postdoctoral research associates are involved in assisting students. Statistics show that more than half of the graduates and a significant fraction of post-docs go to work for member firms. The Center is the largest pool of high-quality graduate students trained in process safety and risk management technologies in the world. Organizations supporting the center are encouraged to interact and discuss research problems with the students and to consider them for summer and permanent employment. Partner level membership will be notified of students ready for internship first followed by Sponsor and finally Associate level membership.

### **2.3 Annual Report**

The center publishes, for the exclusive use of member firms, an annual report on process safety and risk management research and activities at Texas A&M University. The annual report includes detailed descriptions of progress in all projects performed by the Center regardless of funding source. In addition to the annual report, the center publishes periodically Research Highlights on process safety and risk management issues, technologies and new research initiatives. The Research Highlights include brief but timely summaries, approximately two paragraphs in length, of new developments in each research project. Each summary includes the names and telephone numbers of the researchers involved, and members are encouraged to interact with them directly in areas of mutual interest. Research Highlights also includes a list of publications, a list of students completing degree requirements, and brief reports on other developments of interest.

### **2.4 Facilitated Access to Faculty Experts in Areas Related to Process Safety and Risk Management Technology**

Faculty working in the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center comes from the departments of Chemical Engineering, Communications and Outreach, Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Management Systems and Planning, Mechanical Engineering, Nuclear Engineering and Safety Engineering, and Program Evaluation. They all have outstanding reputations as scientists and engineers, numerous publications, and expertise in areas critical to process safety and risk management. Through previous employment and consulting, they are also familiar with the industrial environment and industrial research. Supporting organizations have access to this pool of faculty for consultation and discussion of technical

problems. Supporting organizations are encouraged to establish a close working relationship with faculty and staff of the center, as well as make frequent visits to the center to stay in close contact with the research. Center staff also makes visits to supporting organizations.

## **2.5 Discounted Fees for Continuing Education Courses, Publications and Other Services**

Supporting organizations are given discounted rates for symposium, continuing education courses, publications and other services. The discounted rates are 40, 20 and 10 percent for Partner, Sponsor and Associate members, respectively.

## **2.6 Symposium Registration**

Organizations at the Operating level receive one complimentary registration for the annual symposium.

## **2.7 Preprints of Research Reports Published by the Center**

Partner and Sponsor level members are provided preprints of research reports originating in the center. In addition, most of the faculty affiliated with the center willingly share reports of related contract research funded directly by other sponsors with member organizations unless the other sponsor prohibits such distribution. Given the fact that many publications do not appear in print until more than a year after submission, supporting organizations are able to take advantage of new developments before they are generally known.

## **2.8 Use of Computer Software Developed at the Center**

Partner members are offered free use of computer software developed at the center. Exception to this occurs when the software is developed specifically for a project, and the contract prohibits the distribution or sale of the software.

## **2.9 Database Searches**

Specific database searches of library reference material, equipment reliability database (under development), and incident database (under development) are available free of cost to Partner members and at discounted rates for Sponsor and Associate members.

## **2.10 Ask the Expert**

“Ask the Expert” privileges are available for Associate level and above. “Ask the Expert” is an online form in the Members Area of the Web site, that when submitted is received at a centralized location and then directed to the relevant expert for quick response via email.

## **2.11 Symposium Proceedings**

Partner and Sponsor organizations are provided access to read-only versions of all symposium proceedings. Associate level members are given access at a discounted rate. The Center believes providing the proceedings, along with other Center publications, is a valuable information resource for its members.

## **2.12 Library and Information Services**

Center library checkout privileges are available for all members.

### 3. Giving

All unrestricted gifts to the Center are charitable contributions for tax purposes and qualify as income tax deductions to the extent allowable by law. Unrestricted contributions should be made payable to the *Texas A&M Foundation*. The foundation is the university's designated non-profit corporation created for the specific purpose of receiving, managing and disbursing private funds given to benefit the educational programs of Texas A&M. However, annual member payments, requested by December 31 for the following calendar year, are not considered a tax deductible contribution.

The Center also welcomes support of fellowships, equipment grants and sponsored research grants.

**A graduate fellowship** at an annual funding level of \$35,000 per student allows a donor to fund a student during his or her graduate study. Companies making multi-year commitments to provide fellowships for students may host the student on a cooperative program during the period of graduate study.

**Sponsored research grants** allow a sponsor to directly sponsor a specific project. Usually these projects involve one or more graduate students and faculty. A typical graduate research project supporting one student costs approximately \$75,000 per year.

Donations of equipment, software needed by the center, and books for the Center library are accepted and may be considered as a tax deductible charitable contribution if accompanied by appropriate documentation.

Regardless of the type of sponsorship, the center seeks an interactive research relationship with its sponsors. For a research relationship to provide maximum benefit to the company and the center, it is necessary for the company to take an active role in the direction of the research and in center activities.