

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN R&D AND INNOVATION
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMY, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION OF
THE FLEMISH GOVERNMENT**

The Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China and the Department of Economy, Science and Innovation of the Flemish Government (hereinafter referred to as the 'Parties'),

Pursuant to the *Declaration of intent on Science and Technology Cooperation between the State Science and Technology Commission of the People's Republic of China and the Science Policy Programming Administration of Flanders, signed in 1995,*

And reconfirming the intent of abovementioned agreement of both Parties' will to strengthen and stimulate scientific and technological cooperation in all domains,

Have reached the following agreement:

Article 1 – Purpose

The purpose of this MoU is to improve cooperation between both Parties, in a structural way by creating 'Joint Research-Innovation and Industry Platforms' in selected domains, and by stimulating academic co-operation between universities, research institutes and industries.

The 'Joint Research-Innovation and Industry Platforms' will contribute to one or more of the following objectives:

- § 1. The enhancement of technology transfer in the context of strengthened linkages between science and industry.
- § 2. The strengthening of the innovation capacity of both economies by better conversion of research into innovation and valorisation, direct involvement of enterprises, stronger human capital base in science and technology and improved mobility of researchers.
- § 3. The enhancement of cooperation in challenge-driven innovation, with an explicit link to societal challenges, such as ageing, health care, eco-innovation, renewable energy, urbanization and mobility, and related policy learning.

Article 2 – Joint Research-Innovation and Industry Platforms

The Joint Research-Innovation and Industry Platforms will be organized to stimulate research, technology transfer, entrepreneurship, innovation and valorisation of R&D, and will be based on an integrated three-layer approach, entailing:

- Cooperative research between universities, research institutes and industries of both Parties,
- Joint efforts on knowledge diffusion, innovation and technology transfer, including cooperative incubators for high tech companies and other spin-offs, and talent creation for business development.
- Interregional cooperation on the valorisation of research findings and innovation, and on related economic development of innovation clusters.

Article 3 – Joint cooperative research for futures studies

Recognizing the increasing importance of grand societal challenges, such as ageing, health care, eco-innovation, renewable energy, urbanization and mobility, for both our societies, and the relevance of challenge-driven innovation in addressing these challenges, both Parties encourage futures studies and policy learning related to research activities in the implementation of the Joint Research-Innovation and Industry Platforms mentioned in Articles 2. The intended areas of focus are:

- Economic transformation through innovation → strategic focus: embedding economic activity with sustainable and diversified employment.
- Eco-innovation → strategic focus: sustainable material management, cyclical economy, clean-tech.
- Green energy → strategic focus: renewable energy, energy-efficiency, clean-tech (energy).
- Health care innovation → strategic focus: ageing, health, emancipation.
- Sustainable mobility and logistics → strategic focus: sustainable and efficient mobility and logistics.
- Social innovation → strategic focus: creative entrepreneurship for new solutions to societal and economic challenges and needs.

Article 4 – Organisation and Implementation

§ 1. The elaboration and implementation of the cooperation schemes for Joint Research-Innovation and Industry Platforms will be subject of work programmes to be agreed among both Parties.

§ 2. Under the framework of the Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between China and Flanders, joint working groups can be assigned to elaborate and coordinate the cooperation in the selected focus areas for the Joint Research-Innovation and Industry Platforms.

§ 3. Joint working groups will meet regularly in the two countries on a rotating basis. The Joint Committee will meet upon mutual agreement.

§ 4. The focus areas for the Joint Research-Innovation and Industry Platforms will be defined during the further implementation of this MoU, according to the work process outlined in this Article of this MoU.

§ 5. The Parties shall co-finance the cooperative projects that result from the elaboration of this MoU, in accordance with the terms and conditions of their respective legislation, mutual agreement and subject to their respective procedures and availability of budgets.

§ 6. The Parties guarantee full respect for the rights on the research findings and intellectual property, according to the strictest international definitions, standards and practices. In line with §5 of this Article, the research findings and intellectual property rights arising from the cooperative activities under this MoU, shall remain the property of the project party who generates the research findings and intellectual property, unless otherwise and explicitly agreed between the concerned project parties. These terms remain valid irrespective of the possible set-up or existence of any legal entities in which the project parties are or may be part of, e.g. under the form of a joint venture. The possible dissemination and application of research results and intellectual property that is subject to any rights, and stemming from cooperation as defined in this MoU, will be organised in mutual agreement of all project parties who shall thereto inform the related project parties on their intentions in advance.

Article 5 – Microelectronics

§ 1. In anticipation of the further elaboration of this MoU as outlined in Article 4, and in recognition of the importance of this focus area to drive industrial progress and enhance the innovation capacity of both Parties, as well as of the fact that both countries have good foundations and bright prospects for cooperation in this area, both Parties agree to identify microelectronics as a first focus area for cooperation.

§ 2. With the intent to strengthen R&D and valorisation of technologies and to carry out comprehensive, steady and long-term cooperation in microelectronics on the basis of existing cooperation through synergy between industries, universities and research institutes, both Parties agree to establish a Joint Research-Innovation and Industry Platform in Microelectronics.

§ 3. The Joint Research-Innovation and Industry Platform in Microelectronics has as objective to promote joint research, staff exchanges, and collaboration on technology transfer, innovation and valorisation in microelectronics, among universities, research institutes and enterprises.

§ 4. The Platform will combine the strengths of the two countries in microelectronics, identify priority areas, and provide enabling services, such as technology platforms and market matching, so as to facilitate joint R&D and the valorisation of technologies.

§ 5. There will be a special concern for linking the R&D agenda with the societal challenges referred to in Articles 1 and 3 of this MoU. To this end, coordination will be sought with the Joint cooperative research for futures studies (see Article 3 of this MoU).

§ 6. The cooperative projects of the Joint Research-Innovation and Industry Platform in Microelectronics will be conducted under the supervision of the Joint Committee. To this end, a joint working group will be established.

Article 6 – Final Stipulations

§ 1. This MoU takes effect upon the date of its signature and shall remain in force for five years. It shall be automatically extended for another five years upon expiration in case no objection by any of the Parties.

§ 2. Either Party may terminate this MoU by written notification to the other Party three months in advance.

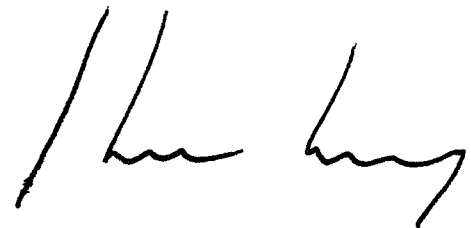
§ 3. Any dispute arising from the interpretation and implementation of this MoU shall be resolved through friendly consultations between the Parties.

§ 4. The terms and conditions of this MoU may be amended by written consent of the Parties.

Done in duplicate in Brussels on April 17th, 2012, in Chinese and Dutch, both texts being equally authentic, and with a translation in English.



Vice Minister of the Ministry of Science and
Technology
People's Republic of China



Vice minister-president of the Flemish
Government and Flemish Minister for
Innovation, Public Investments, Media and
Poverty Alleviation
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