

Promoting interaction between the University membership and our industry.

The communications industry relies on academia not only for a supply of high quality graduates, but also for research and innovation. By encouraging early interaction between industry and academia, we will be able to:

- Encourage more students to take courses relevant to our industry
- Encourage institutes of learning to provide these courses
- Ensure that students and teachers are aware of how the TM Forum is leading development and thinking in the fields of OSS and BSS
- Provide relevant work experience
- Provide a vehicle whereby industry can sponsor research and development



Essentially, mapping the needs of our industry to the students, who are the future of our industry, and the academic bodies they represent.

The TM Forum University Liaison Program comprises TM Forum members, commercial and academic, and has been created to encourage and promote this interaction.

The ULP is unique in that it encourages peer to peer involvement in addition to team participation. Members and Universities are free to develop mutually beneficial relationships within the collaboration framework that the Forum provides.

Incentives for Universities to Participate and ULP Benefits

As an incentive for Universities to participate in the program by joining the Forum, we can offer Affiliate Membership, free for the first year providing that a few conditions are met:

The University must agree to:

1. Participate in the new University Liaison program.
2. Approve the TM Forum's IPR agreement. All TM Forum members must agree to abide by TM Forum rules of membership including those associated with Intellectual Property Rights. In a corporate member, the company agrees to this on behalf of its employees. However, as students are not employees then any students participating must be made aware of their responsibilities regarding intellectual property. The TM Forum supplies a draft letter that can be used as a template.
3. Contribute to the TM Forum in a mutually agreed manner. Examples include translating some documents, participating on a team within the TM Forum Collaboration program, or organizing a regional news letter.

Affiliate membership allows all of the benefits of full membership, including full access to the TM Forum Document Library, with the exception of voting rights for member approval of documents and the board of directors.

Potential benefits of the ULP

To TM Forum Members

- A source of development resource
- A source of new employees

To Universities / Educators

- An enhanced reputation in the field by being part of a globally recognized industry leading organization
- A source of new funding for research projects
- Attract more students to communications and general engineering programs
- Create a long term research strategy driven by industry needs

To Students

- Access to information that will allow them to complete their studies
- Provides an avenue for getting their work published
- Provides funding through corporate sponsorships
- Provides internships
- Creates job opportunities

If you are interested in participating in the University Liaison Program or wish to find out more please contact:
Andy Chalmers - TM Forum : achalmers@tmforum.org or
Barbara J. Taylor - Team Leader: BJ.Taylor@stevens.edu