

Center for Smart Structures and Materials

CSSM's Partnership with Industry and Research Labs Program

In order to facilitate greater research collaboration with industry and other research labs, the Center for Smart Structures & Materials (CSSM) at Northwestern University (NU) has established a Partnership with Industry and Research Labs (PIRL) Program. Industrial and research lab partners from across the world may apply to become a member of CSSM's PIRL program.

Benefits of Membership:

Technical assistance: CSSM personnel will provide reasonable technical advice in the areas of CSSM's expertise, not to exceed 32 person-hours (4 working days) per year as part of the membership fee. Such advice will be provided either via email or teleconference, or through in-person meetings held at NU. This assistance will not involve any laboratory or computational work, but will only include verbal or written advice on technical matters.

Short-courses: CSSM may from time to time offer short courses at NU in areas of CSSM's expertise. Up to 4 individuals from PIRL partner organizations may participate in CSSM's short-courses with registration-fee waived. For short-courses held at NU, the participants' organizations are responsible for all travel and accommodation expenses for their personnel. Participants in these short-courses do not receive any NU or other professional course credit, but the PIRL partner organizations may offer credit to their own personnel as they see fit.

Partner Briefings: CSSM will provide once-a-year non-exclusive briefings to PIRL partners on CSSM research activities. These briefings may be in person at the Center, or via webcast.

Training: Partner members may request that CSSM personnel offer special training courses in areas of CSSM's expertise, and center personnel will try to accommodate these requests as time and expertise permits. Instruction charges for such training courses will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis, depending on the time and personnel involved. For training courses held at PIRL partner locations, the PIRL partner will also be responsible for all travel and accommodation expenses of CSSM's personnel.

Collaborations: CSSM can host PIRL partner personnel for short-term visits to NU to explore joint research collaborations consistent with NU policies. CSSM will provide office space (if available) and Internet connection to such visitors. The PIRL partner is responsible for all expenses for their personnel. Should a PIRL partner require more substantive technical collaboration with CSSM than is possible within these PIRL program guidelines, the PIRL partner may arrange to sponsor a research program at CSSM consistent with NU policies. CSSM and PIRL partner organizations may also jointly apply for third-party sponsored research funding consistent with NU and PIRL partner organization policies.

Annual Membership Fee (2016-2017):

Small Businesses:	US \$6,000*	Research Labs:	US \$15,000
Medium-size Corporations:	US\$15,000	Large Corporations:	US \$25,000

*Small businesses: <50 employees (*includes only 8 person-hours of technical assistance per year)*

Research Labs: academic, provincial or national research labs whose primary mission is research and/or education

Medium-size corporations: 51-499 employees

Large corporations: > 500 employees

Additional Terms and Conditions:

1. The sole purpose of the PIRL program is to facilitate research collaborations. As such, any information and advice provided by CSSM personnel are on a best-faith basis only. The PIRL partner may make use of such advice and information at its discretion, and in doing so the PIRL partner agrees to assume all risks. The PIRL partner indemnifies CSSM personnel and NU from all liabilities for any damage (physical or financial or otherwise) to any party that may result from the use of any information or advice provided by CSSM personnel.
2. CSSM does not engage in any restricted or classified work. All interactions under this program will be subject to the relevant laws of the United States of America and of the State of Illinois only and of no other jurisdiction.
3. In the event of a disagreement between the PIRL partner and CSSM, the PIRL partner agrees that the sole remedy is for it to withdraw from the PIRL program membership. The PIRL partner further agrees to waive all rights to any other legal recourse it may have against CSSM personnel individually and against Northwestern University.
4. Members may withdraw from the PIRL program at any time for any reason. However, the membership fee is due at the start of membership and annually thereafter at prevailing rates, and is non-refundable in this case.
5. CSSM may revoke a PIRL partner's membership at any time for any reason. In this case, the membership fee for that year will be refunded on a pro-rata basis.