

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

ON

TIFAC - CII COOPERATION

1.0 Preamble

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the apex organisation representing industry has been working closely with Indian Industry in various ways pursuing technology as a major thrust area. Through its overseas operations and excellent interactions with various international organisations, CII has been effective in spearheading the 'management of change' in Indian Industry by taking up appropriate programmes related to technology promotion and upgradation, collaborations and joint-ventures, energy management, environmental awareness, total quality management and necessary Industry-Government interfaces.

Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), an autonomous organisation under the aegis of the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, has the mandate of developing Technology Plans for the country in the sectors of national priority. TIFAC aims to integrate the shared opinions of all the stake-holders in a specific technology area in order to arrive at a consensus thus acceptable to all. TIFAC has been keeping a 'technology watch' on global trends and to bring together the key players in technology initiatives in the country viz. the Government, industry, academia, national laboratories and financial institutions.

Both CII and TIFAC have endeavoured to effectively network the various centres of excellence across the country so as to integrate and build on their expertise and strengths thus contributing to the industrial and technological growth of the country.

2.0 Joint Efforts Undertaken so far

CII and TIFAC have a useful and productive experience of working together over the past four years and are now ready to enter into a new phase of active cooperation.

President - CII is a member of the TIFAC Council. Also CII representative is a member of TIFACLINE Overview Committee. CII actively participates in a number of TIFAC programmes and vice-versa.

Due to the obvious synergistic advantages and commonality of objectives TIFAC and CII have already taken up the following joint exercises :

2.1 TIFACLINE Database on Manufacturing Technologies:

CII has been one of the Data Producers for TIFACLINE, the Technology Information Systems, right from the beginning of the pilot project. Hardware for data entry and storage alongwith the necessary software packages has been provided to CII by TIFAC. Also TIFAC has extended some funding support towards the operating costs of the project. The pilot project on TIFACLINE with several Data Producers has reached a stage of being taken up by CMC Ltd. for its operationalisation, marketing and further augmentation.

2.2 Technology Assessment Study on Indian Foundry Industry :

TIFAC and CII had undertaken a joint study of Indian foundry industry. The study had tried to bring in all the stake-holders to assess the needs of the industry related to raw material, product quality, technology status etc. Also a detailed market survey was undertaken by TIFAC to establish the quantum of demand.

2.3 Others

Apart from these TIFAC has actively participated in CII fora on quality management, environmental technologies, and cogeneration and various other areas. Many CII experts have participated in various Technology Forecasting/ Assessment and Techno-Market Surveys conducted by TIFAC. TIFAC has also extended support in conceptualising the role and operation of Technology Information Centre (TIC) with the assistance from Commission of European Community (CEC).

3.0 Approach to Further Phase of Cooperation

With a view to fulfil the prime objectives of assisting the Indian industries in modernising themselves and be globally competitive, TIFAC and CII wish to consolidate their collaborative platform for further utilisation of synergies of both the organisations. This Memorandum of Understanding while identifying such possible collaborative avenues, sets forth the outline and mechanisms for a formal linkage between the two organisations.

3.1 Mechanism for Joint Initiatives :

The projects, jointly undertaken by TIFAC and CII, would warrant a programme implementation methodology which may be conceptualised in a mission mode under the overall guidance of a 'Task Force'.

3.1.1 TIFAC-CII 'Task Force' would be set up with at least four nominees from CII and TIFAC/DST.

3.1.2 The Task Force may induct a few other experts to accomplish the specific projects undertaken. The methodology and work allocation for various projects will be decided by the Task Force.

3.1.3 The Task Force will attempt concrete actions in the following areas :

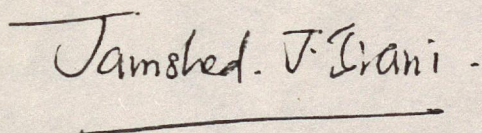
- i) Review the ongoing cooperation activities and taking steps for their follow-up and fructification.
- ii) Assessment of **technology status** (indigenous as well as global), needs for **modernisation and restructuring** of Indian industry in the specific areas with particular reference to the **sector specific, region specific** needs keeping in view the requirements of various **States**.
- iii) Identification of **institutions and teams** for development and upgradation of select technologies.
- iv) Selection of **technologies for import** to bridge the gap on an immediate basis and designing suitable mechanisms for their absorption, adaptation and subsequent diffusion.
- v) Initiation of **industry-laboratory** collaborative approaches towards technology development efforts.
- vi) Establishment of effective **inter-institutional linkages** towards evolution of joint action plans among various stake-holders.
- vii) Planning of joint efforts towards improved **competitive advantage** for Indian industry in the global scenario including steps towards better quality systems for a niche in the overseas markets.
- viii) Bringing out special **Technology Bulletins and Updates** in frontier areas sourced from specialised library of TIFAC and other centres of excellence across the country and abroad towards **Technology Awareness Programmes** for Indian industry.
- ix) Setting up mechanisms for an effective dissemination of recommendations from various **Technology Forecasting/Assessment Studies and Techno-Market Surveys** undertaken by TIFAC for their meaningful follow-up to fruition in Indian industry.
- x) Enhancing **Technology Transfer** from research groups to commercialisation.

3.1.4 Among other things, the following areas may be given a special attention :

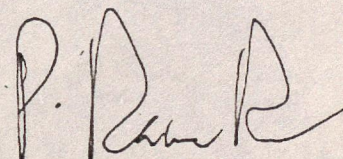
- i) **Advanced Materials** : Development of Metal Matrix and Carbon-Carbon Composites, Electronic Materials, Engineering Polymers etc.
- ii) Development of Titanium Sponge/Alloy technologies in downstream industries.
- iii) Technology planning and modernisation for Foundry industry.
- iv) Study on **Environmental Technology** status and identification of technology gaps in Indian Industry.
- v) Promotion of **Information Technology** in the industry and closer cooperation between TIFACLINE and TIC.
- vi) Promotion of **Home Grown Technologies**, as brought out by TIFAC survey at the instance of Planning Commission, for their indigenous absorption and also exploration of overseas markets.

4.0 The new phase of TIFAC-CII joint initiatives beginning with the establishment of the Task Force is expected to go a long way in shaping up effective technology plans for Indian industry with balanced and well thought out approaches towards overall industrial growth in the country. It is also expected to stimulate commercially viable and globally competitive R&D in the country. Further avenues will be explored during the conduct of work of the Task Force. The two Co-Chairmen will render a quarterly progress report of Task Force activities to President, CII and Chairman, TIFAC Executive Committee.

This agreement is entered into at New Delhi on 28th day of August, 1992.



(DR. JAMSHED J. IRANI)
President
Confederation of Indian Industry



(PROF.P. RAMA RAO)
Chairman - TIFAC
Executive Committee
& Secretary, DST.