

## LETTER OF NOTIFICATION – 2

### ESTABLISHMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

(Center, Division or Institute not offering primary faculty appointments or certificate/degree programs)

1. Institution submitting request: University of Arkansas
2. Contact Person/title: Ranil Wickramasinghe, Professor of Chemical Engineering
3. Phone Number/e-mail address: 479-575-2344 [swickram@uark.edu](mailto:swickram@uark.edu)
4. Name of Proposed Institute/Center: University of Arkansas Membrane Research Center (UA MRC)
5. Proposal Location: Cato Springs Research Center, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, campus
6. Distance of proposed unit from main campus: 0 miles
7. Reason for proposed action:

The UA MRC is part of the Membrane Science, Engineering and Technology (MAST) Center. The MAST Center is a National Science Foundation Industry and University Cooperative Research Center. Since 2010 the MAST Center consisted of two sites: New Jersey Institute of Technology (lead site) and the University of Colorado Boulder. The University of Arkansas officially joined the MAST Center as a third site on March 1, 2014. The UA MRC is the Arkansas site of the MAST Center. The UA MRC currently has 5 industrial sponsors and is rapidly expanding. Faculty from Chemical, Biomedical and Civil Engineering are involved in the UA MRC. The UA MRC is the only membrane research center in the State. Membrane based separation processes offer many advantages such as: lower cost processes, significant process intensification, more sustainable separation processes. The UA MRC could enable the University of Arkansas to be a leader in this field.

8. Mission and role for proposed Institute/Center:

The most important component of the mission of the UA MRC is promotion of education and training opportunities in membrane science and technology especially for graduate students. Graduate students (PhD and MS level students) will form the back bone of all UA MRC research teams. Graduate students will conduct their thesis research through UA MRC projects. A unique feature of UA MRC research projects is that every project will have at least one of our industrial sponsors as a project mentor. The UA MRC: (1) Conducts fundamental and applied research in the field of membranes via innovative materials and processes to facilitate the use of membrane technology for current and emerging industrial applications; (2) Helps sustain U.S. technological

leadership in membrane materials and membrane-based separation processes and accelerate commercialization by Center sponsors of novel, sustainable and innovative technologies; (3) Provides undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral researchers with a superior educational and research experience that will enable them to become productive and effective professionals in the membrane community. An underlying emphasis in all of these efforts is the understanding that new membrane technologies will lead to enhanced sustainability in our technological operations.

9. Provide current and proposed organizational chart. See attached proposal
10. Copy of e-mail notification to other institutions in the area of proposed location and their responses; include your reply to the institutional responses.

Not required.

11. Provide additional program information if requested by ADHE staff.

President/Chancellor Approval Date:

Board of Trustees Approval or Notification Date:

Chief Academic Officer:

Date: