



## Specific agreement for a Doctoral Double Degree

Between

### **ECOLE CENTRALE DE NANTES**

Public Scientific, Cultural and Professional Establishment

Located at 1 rue de la Noë, BP. 92101, F-44221 – Nantes Cedex 03 (France)

Represented by its Director, Professor Arnaud Poitou

Hereinafter referred to as ECN on one hand,

And

### **INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS**

Educational institution created by an Act of Parliament

Located at Chennai 600 036, Tamil Nadu, India

Represented by its President, Professor Bhaskar Ramamurthi

Hereinafter referred to as "IITM", on the other hand,

Hereinafter referred to as the "Parties".

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Considering the communication of the present Agreement to the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research and to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Considering the Cooperation Framework agreement between ECN and IITM signed on 6/7/2010 and renewed on 23/03/2016.

## THE PARTIES DECIDE AS FOLLOW:

### **Article 1. Objective and scope of the agreement**

1. The purpose of this agreement is to specify the general terms under which PhD students from IITM studying at ECN and PhD students from ECN studying at IITM may be awarded, upon successful fulfillment of all requirements for graduation at each institution, the PhD degree from both institutions.
2. According to French national laws, for each student a specific joint supervision agreement ("*accord de cotutelle*", hereinafter "*cotutelle agreement*") will be jointly signed by the authorized representatives of each institution, the representative of each graduate school, the thesis supervisors and the student. This agreement will specify the conditions to the scientific award of the PhD degree of both institutions.

### **Article 2. Double degree work program**

1. The work related to the thesis will be carried out in both signatory institutions, in alternate periods of similar length spent in each country, according to scientific requirements.
2. The duration of the preparation of a thesis is in general of three (3) years. Derogations can be given by the legal representative of the institution or any of its members having an explicit proxy, on justified request of the Doctorate supervisors at each institution and the applicant. Accordingly permission to conduct a 4<sup>th</sup> year will be assessed by the competent bodies at each university at the end of the third year.
3. When applicable, credits obtained at the host institution can be considered for accreditation at the home institution.

### **Article 3. Award of qualification**

1. In order to receive the PhD degrees, students shall spend 12 (twelve) to twenty-four (24) months at each institution. The exact mobility period will be specified in the individual cotutelle agreement. In any case, students cannot stay less than twelve (12) months at each institution for a 3-year doctorate or less than eighteen (18) months in case a 4<sup>th</sup> year is permitted. Both thesis supervisors are in charge of the application of the minimum mobility periods of the doctoral student in each institution.
2. Each student who satisfactorily meets the academic requirements for the award of the degree of both institutions shall receive the PhD degree from both institutions.

3. Each institution decides, on its own internal criteria, if the PhD student has fulfilled all the requirements to obtain his/her degree. When applicable, each institution should provide information that allows grading on the local grading scale of the other institution.

#### **Article 4. Supervision and examination**

1. An advisory committee consisting of multiple faculty members from both institutions shall be appointed to each student to provide supervision on the study and research. Two major supervisors (one per institution) shall be selected from the committee members. A faculty member who is assigned for a major supervisor must hold a habilitation qualification. The two thesis supervisors commit themselves to collaborate and jointly supervise the student for the whole duration of the thesis.
2. The *rapporteurs'* opinion is made known through written reports on the basis of which the president or dean of the Parties authorize the defense. These reports are communicated to the jury and the applicant before the defense. The evaluation of the thesis will be made as per the Home Institution based on the report which will be communicated to the jury.
3. Doctoral thesis examination shall be held jointly by both institutions through a single defense organized at one of the partner institution. The authorization to defend a thesis will be given jointly by the president or dean of the Parties after a preliminary procedure. This preliminary procedure consists of a review by at least two *rapporteurs* appointed by the Parties, entitled to direct research, and not belonging to any of the two institutions.
4. The jury is appointed jointly by the contracting institutions. It is composed of an equal number of members of both institutions (50%), and of personalities not belonging to these institutions (50%). Members of the jury must hold a habilitation qualification.
5. The jury is made up of four (4) members at least and of eight (8) members at most. The members of the jury nominate a chairman among them who must be a professor or assimilated. A doctorate supervisor cannot be Chairman.

#### **Article 5. Academic calendar**

Commencement of the academic year is in September at ECN and last week of July at IITM. Specific arrangements will be foreseen in the individual cotutelle agreement.

#### **Article 6. Numerus clausus**

The number of students to be admitted is to be negotiated annually between the partner institutions in accordance with local capacity and regulations, considering a maximum of two (2) PhD students per partner institution and year. This number can be modified, if necessary, based on the discussion between both institutions. In any case, the two institutions will admit a balanced number of students through this agreement.

#### **Article 7. Language requirement**

1. In order to carry out the course of study, each student shall possess sufficient English language ability.
2. According to French national laws, the student should provide a summary of the thesis in French to ECN. A summary of the thesis in English should be provided to IITM.

#### **Article 8. Admission, enrollment and fees**

1. The institution where PhD students are originally enrolled is considered their home institution. The other institution of the double degree program is their host institution.
2. The PhD student wishing to participate in the doctoral double degree Program under this agreement shall be selected by the IITM collaborating faculty, and ECN collaborating doctoral school. The selected PhD student will also be evaluated by the host institution in order to be admitted to the double degree program. PhD students must comply with the concrete admission requirements of the program they want to participate in.
3. The entrance examination fee shall be paid to both institutions. However, in the case where the entrance examination fee is not requested, there is no need to pay the fee.
4. The students should matriculate each academic year at the two (2) institutions until the defense date.
5. The doctoral student will pay the registration fees only in one institution each year (he/she will be waived in the other institution as far as is permitted by national laws). The distribution of the payment between the two institutions will be agreed in the individual cotutelle agreement. At least one year should be paid to the host institution during the mobility period.

6. Both institutions affirm and agree that the mobile students will be entitled to the same rights and privileges and subject to the same rules, policies, penalties and discipline as other enrolled students at the host institution.

#### **Article 9. Services for international researchers**

1. Each institution shall provide necessary logistical supports, including the assistance to the visa application in order to facilitate PhD student mobility. Each institution shall assist the mobile PhD students in finding adequate housing on or near the campus.
2. The international office of each institution assists the mobile students to obtain necessary information of all aspects, such as visas, health services, housing, language tutoring and cultural activities.
3. Both institutions will ensure that each mobile student will be responsible for obtaining a proper visa, although the host institution will assist with their visa application. The cost for obtaining the visa shall be borne by the PhD student.
4. Both institutions affirm that each mobile student must comply with regulations for health insurance in each institution. The insurance fee to be paid during mobility shall be borne by the PhD student. On admission at the ECN, students under twenty eight (28) years old participating in the Programme have to subscribe to the student system of French Social Security (except from European Union citizens). Students participating in the Programme must join a certificate for repatriation insurance and civil liability for private life, valid without limit of repayment during their whole stay.

#### **Article 10. Academic representatives**

Each institution will nominate its own academic representative, and such representatives will be responsible for ensuring that measures are taken in accordance with this agreement.

#### **Article 11. Intellectual property**

Background knowledge belongs to each Party is and remains its property. The present Agreement doesn't give to the other Party any right on this intellectual property nor on the corresponding savoir-faire.

The Party remains owner of the results and savoir-faire that could be developed during the stay of a PhD student of the other Party in one of its laboratories.

Depending on the research project, special arrangements related to the Intellectual Property may be negotiated through the individual cotutelle agreement.

## **Article 12. Confidentiality and publication**

The Parties consider as purely confidential any information they could get during the stay of their PhD students in the other institution.

The Parties will inform each other about the projects of diffusion (written publication, oral communication, reports) in relation with the stay of one of their PhD students at the other institution.

During the stay of a PhD student at the other institution and up to one (1) year after, an authorization of any project of publication related with this stay must be asked at writing to the other Party, which must reply within one (1) month. In case the Party doesn't reply after this period, the authorization is deemed to have been obtained. Nevertheless, the Party whose information comes from might bring modifications before any publication. These modifications can't harm the scientific value of the publication.

Depending on the research project, special procedures for protection or dissemination of the results of the thesis may be defined and may be negotiated through the individual cotutelle agreement.

## **Article 13. Degree awarding**

After the thesis defense and on proposal of the thesis committee, each contracting institution delivers its doctoral degree in accordance with the regulations in force (2 diplomas).

Each diploma will bear the doctoral specialty from each institution, the thesis title, the name of the partner institution, and will also mention the international Cotutelle Contract between the two institutions.

## **Article 14. Conflict resolution**

Conflicts concerning this agreement, related to its interpretation, its non-validity, its execution or its cancellation, as well as any conflict related to the addition of complementary elements or its adaptation to new conditions, will be solved according to the terms mentioned in the Cooperation Framework agreement signed by ECN and IITM as quoted in preamble.

## **Article 15. Terms of validity and termination**

1. The Agreement shall be effective after its signature by the last of the Parties. It is valid until the term of the Framework agreement quoted in preamble. The term of the present agreement doesn't implicate the premature achievement of cooperation actions that would have been started during the duration of the Programme. After

the term of validity of the Framework agreement and after an evaluation of the cooperation activities, a new agreement may be established and submitted to the procedure in force.

2. Each Party shall have the right to withdraw from this agreement by giving the other Party a six months' notice, provided that withdrawal takes effect no earlier than the end of the ongoing academic year, nor than the end of the ongoing partnership actions.
3. Students who have commenced their study before achievement or termination of the present Agreement may continue to complete their study for the originally scheduled period.

#### **Article 16. Amendments or changes**

This agreement may be amended in the form of an addendum which shall be submitted to the same procedure as the one used for the present agreement.

#### **Article 17. Redaction language and number of copies**

There are two (2) authentic texts of this framework agreement in English.

The signatories declare that they have read and accept the conditions laid down in the present Contract.

For Ecole Centrale de Nantes  
Nantes, 30 / 10 / 2017

  
Armel De La Bourdonnaye  
Director

For the Indian Institute of Technology Madras  
Chennai, 25/09/2017

  
Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi  
Director



# INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS

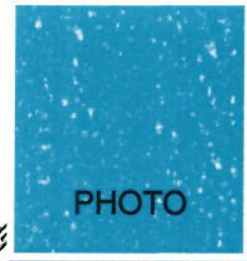
*hereby confers the degree of*

**Doctor of Philosophy**

*of the Institute*

on

*<<name>> for successfully completing the prescribed programme of study  
entitled << TITLE >*



*the thesis*

*jointly with -----*

*Given this day the -----*

*under the seal of the Institute*

*Registrar*

*Director*

*Chairman, Board of Governors*



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**MODELE G — DOCTORAT**

**REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE**

Ministere de l'education nationale; de l'enseignement superieur et de la recherche

**ETABLISSEMENT(S) D'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPERIEUR (denomination officielle)**  
**DOCTORAT**

Vu le code de Peducation, notamment ses articles L. 612-7, L. 613-1, D. 613-3 et D. 613-6 ;

Vu le code de la recherche, notamment son article LA12-1 ;

Vu l'arrete du..... relatif a l'accréditation de (etablissement) l'habilitant a delivrer des diplomes nationaux ;

Vu les pieces justificatives produites par M....., ne(e) le..... a..... en vue de son inscription en doctorat ;

Le diplome de **DOCTORAT** en (discipline)

est delivre a (Mme ou M.) (prenom, NOM patronymique)

au titre de l'annee universitaire.....

et confere le **grade de docteur**,

Fait le (date)

Le titulaire  
competente (s)

Signature du chef d'etablissement  
Le recteur d'academie,

(ou des chefs d'etablissement,  
le cas echeant)

Signature de (ou des) autorite (s)

du ministere (le cas echeant)

Ministere de redaction nationale, de l'enseignement superieur et de la recherche