

MIT Skoltech Program

MIT, the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology (Skoltech), and the Skolkovo Foundation have been collaborating since 2011 to develop Skoltech, a private graduate research university in Russia. In the first phase the collaboration designed and developed Skoltech as a unique, world-class research university on the outskirts of Moscow, embodying many of the principles and values of MIT. Now in its second phase (since March 2016), the [MIT Skoltech Program](#) works collaboratively to continue to develop Skoltech and the Skolkovo ecosystem through a targeted set of joint activities between MIT and Skoltech.

Research and Outreach Activities

Collaborative research is a core element of the relationship between MIT and Skoltech. This year, several new research projects were launched as part the MIT Skoltech Seed Fund and the Next Generation Program (NGP), adding to a set of ongoing projects.

The MIT Skoltech Seed Fund supports innovative research projects with the potential to benefit the development of Skoltech or the mission of the Skolkovo Foundation. This year, the MIT Skoltech Seed Fund supported 25 new projects, resulting from two separate calls for seed fund proposals, to researchers from 10 MIT departments and programs representing four schools. The fund strongly encourages collaborative research with Skoltech or other Russian academic and research institutions, and has focused on the five Skoltech thematic program areas (biomedicine; energy; data science and computational modeling; product design and manufacturing; and space), as well as other strategic areas that may benefit Skoltech or the Skolkovo Foundation. In the second call this year, the fund especially encouraged applications that promote experimental or applied research at Skoltech or other Russian academic and research institutions.

This year, the MIT Skoltech Seed Fund also supported start-up activities for four new MIT faculty members from three different schools.

The MIT Skoltech Next Generation Program funds a range of academic and institution development activities, including research projects, each involving one MIT principal investigator and one Skoltech principal investigator working together. This year, in addition to the existing 15 joint NGP projects, four new projects were awarded. The Next Generation Program seeks to establish and promote mutually beneficial, long-term bilateral collaboration in research, education, and innovation between Skoltech faculty members and their MIT counterparts through the largely research-driven projects.

This year, more than 65 MIT faculty, together with researchers, students, and staff from across the Institute participated in the collaboration to continue to advance the development of Skoltech as it grows its research activities and adds to its faculty.

As part of MIT's commitment to develop student and postdoctoral exchange and internship programs at and for Skoltech, the MIT Skoltech Program continued to support the MISTI MIT–Russia Program. This year, the program sent 11 students to Skoltech for summer internships to participate in NGP project research.

Joint MIT-Skoltech Conferences

A core activity fundamental to the MIT-Skoltech relationship is the co-sponsorship and co-organization of joint academic conferences. These are highly interactive and informative meetings in joint areas of interest and activity in science, technology, and innovation. Due to the timing of the second annual joint conference (which took place in April 2017) and the third annual joint conference (scheduled for October 2018), there is no conference to report on in this year, but planning for the third annual joint conference was carried out.

Program Governance

The MIT Faculty Coordinating Committee oversees and facilitates MIT's planning and execution of the cooperative activities. The MIT Faculty Coordinating Committee members are Professor Richard Lester (chair, MIT Faculty Coordinating Committee); Professor Bruce Tidor (vice chair, MIT Faculty Coordinating Committee); Brian Anthony (director, Master of Engineering in Manufacturing Program); Professor Munther Dahleh (director, Institute for Data, Systems, and Society); Douglas Hart (professor of mechanical engineering); Phillip A. Sharp (Institute Professor, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research); and Carl V. Thompson (Stavros Salapatas Professor of Materials Science and Engineering). Deliana Ernst is the program's assistant director, and Natalia Billings is the program's administrative assistant. The program is headquartered in E19.

The program is responsible for carrying out MIT's core cooperative activities, which, in addition to the organization of the annual conference, includes upon request advising Skoltech on matters related to administration and research; and maintenance of a website.

Bruce Tidor

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