MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

BETWEEN

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND
STATE UNIVERSITY
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA, USA

AND

GHENT UNIVERSITY
GHENT, BELGIUM

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (hereafter referred to as Virginia Tech), represented by its President or Provost, and Ghent University, represented by its Rector, have agreed to the following terms:

1. That this MOU is intended to facilitate all exchanges and cooperative initiatives between the universities in the area of instruction, exchange, development, research, and community service.

2. That the parties recognize that implementation of any agreement will depend upon the academic interest and expertise of individual faculty members and upon the availability of financial resources.

3. A variety of cooperative approaches shall be employed, such as:

   Exchange of undergraduate and graduate students
   Exchange of faculty members
   Exchange of research personnel
   Technical assistance and/or training
   Exchange of scholarly and pedagogical materials
   Joint Research
   Other cooperative efforts set forth in separate Implementing Agreements.

   (IA)
4. That financial and/or funding considerations shall become the subject of specific discussion and agreement within the framework of a separate Implementing Agreement negotiated at the College/Departmental level. No financial commitment whatever on the part of either signatory to this general document is intended or implied.

5. That specific projects to which this MOU may lead will be subject to joint and periodic evaluations by appropriate authorities within the respective universities.

6. That this MOU will be in effect for a period of five years and is subject to revision or modification by mutual agreement. It is also understood that either institution may terminate the agreement upon one year’s notice. It is assumed that such action would be taken only after mutual consultation in order to minimize potential inconvenience to the other party to the agreement.

7. That such Memoranda of Understanding are not intended to be legally binding documents. Rather, they are meant to describe the nature and cooperative intentions of those institutions involved, and to suggest guidelines for cooperation. Nothing, therefore, shall diminish the full autonomy of either institution, nor may any constraints be imposed by either upon the other.

Charles W. Steger  
President  
Virginia Tech  

Prof. dr. ir J. Willems  
Rector  
Ghent University

7 June 2008  
Date  

September 2008  
Date