Meeting the Challenges of Multi-University Centers: An Operations Perspective

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Wood-Based Composites Center (WBC)
Phase I, Two-Site Center

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About our Center

• Membership: 10 members representing:
  • Adhesive and additive suppliers to wbc industry
  • Manufacturers of wbc products
  • Government agencies (U.S., Australia)
  • European-based research laboratory
• Prior to the housing market collapse 18 members, evenly distributed between manufacturers and suppliers. Today, the majority are chemical producers.

Mission

Advance the science and technology of wood-based composite materials
Center Leadership Team
- Director (VT)
- Co-Director (OSU)
- Managing Director

NSF
- Program Director
- NSF External Evaluator

Members
- Industrial Advisory Board
  - Executive Committee
- Technical Committee

Partner Universities
- VT
- OSU
- Maine
- UBC

NSF Sites

Projects
- Project 1
- Project 2
- Project 3
- Project n
Evolution of the Center

- Established: 1999
- I/UCRC Panning Grant Awarded: 2009
- I/UCRC Center Awarded: 2010
- Two NSF Sites and Two Partner Universities
- No new Sites added
Novel Characteristics:  
• Two Partner Universities (not Sites); subcontracted for research  
• Each Site subcontracts to only one Partner University  
• Collaborative recruiting efforts include Directors, members and partner universities  
• In all WBC activities, a member’s university affiliation is not considered  

Innovative Management:  
• Single Managing Director serves both sites, presents a united front  
• All documentation is standardized across four universities  
• Lead Site invoices the other for expenses, as necessary
Thank you.
Questions?