Initiative for Coordinated Master Projects in Industry

The chapters below give detailed information on the various aspects of the initiative of the School of Engineering (STI).

Description and framework of Coordinated Master Projects in Industry

A Coordinated Master Project in industry (CMP) is a work carried out by a student at the end of his master education to apply the competences acquired during his studies. It lasts 25 weeks and takes place in the company under the supervision of a teaching assistant affiliated to an EPFL research laboratory. If required (and with beforehand agreement by the concerned laboratory on the practical and financial conditions), part of the work can take place in the school’s laboratory, but a minimum of 8 weeks must be carried at the company.

The definition of a CMP proposal is an important step implicating both the host company and the research laboratory. The identification of an objective suiting the technological developments of the company, and involving a research aspects requiring academic competences of the student, is of primary importance in order to guarantee a win-win-win situation for the company, the laboratory and the student. A work plan over the full duration of the project has to be established in order to follow the progress.

The student is closely supervised by the teaching assistant from EPFL and by the person in charge in the company. Regular coordination meetings allow to adjust and re-orientate the final project objective if required. Close to the project ending, the student writes his Master thesis which will be orally defended in front of a jury generally composed by a representative from the company and his academic supervisor.

To respect to academic calendar, the CMP can start during the following time windows:

- Mid-February – end of February
- Beginning of August – end of September

Legal aspects and management of intellectual property can be defined by an agreement signed by the 3 parties. EPFL provides a contract template which can be studied here:

Link to Master thesis agreement

A non-disclosure agreement (NDA) can also be signed to protect the confidential aspects of the project. Unlike internships, Master projects do not require a monthly remuneration to the student, but a compensation for travel and lodging and/or a bonus at the end of the project can be given to the student. CMPs do not require a work authorization for 3rd country citizens as the project is part of the student’s curriculum.
Sections taking part
Below you will find the 4 sections from STI implicated in this strategic initiative, and to whom CMP subjects can be proposed by the company. The links lead to a list of faculty members of each section describing their main research activities. The industrial partners are invited to study these documents in order to suggest one or several academic partners for their projects.

- Microengineering (STI)
- Materials Science and Engineering (STI)
- Electrical Engineering (STI)
- Mechanical Engineering (STI)

Financial support
Thanks to the innovation cheque from CTI, SMEs can have access to a maximum of CHF 7,500 worth of R&D services from public research institutions and introduces you to the world of science-based innovation promotion. The coordinated master projects aimed by this initiative perfectly fit the framework of this financing tool. More information concerning this opportunity can be studied here:

- Link to the Innovation cheque

Required steps to submit a CMP proposal

- The company contacts a relevant research laboratory and discusses the content of a CMP proposal.
- Submission of a CMP proposal by industry using the EPFL internship portal. In order to distinguish these offers from regular internships, it is mandatory to select: “Master Project (Diploma)”, and to provide precise description of the problem and the desired competences. If the company has been able to identify a research laboratory as partner, it should be specified at the beginning of the form:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Informations générales</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Programmes Master</th>
<th>Soumission du stage</th>
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</thead>
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  **Etape 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Titre du stage</th>
<th>Testbench</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Format</td>
<td>☑ Projet de Master (diplôme)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Je suis en contact avec un Professeur/enseignant EPFL pour la supervision académique de l’étudiant</td>
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- Publication of the subject to concerned Master students
- Student applications including CV and motivation letter sent to companies
- Interview and candidate selection by the company
Industry Day

The initiative for coordinated master projects is closely linked to the industry day which is organized every 2nd year at the **Swisstech Convention Center** (STCC) on the EPFL campus. The event allows industrial players to be informed about the state of research in the faculties of engineering (STI). Companies can meet laboratory representatives and initiate collaborations. Companies also have the opportunity to introduce themselves to master students of STI by giving a filmed and webcasted pitch talk.

Regular updates on the program and registration for this day can be retrieved here:

- [Link to industry day webpage](#)

Contact

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