



# UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS RESEARCH CENTER IN SINGAPORE

## *AN OVERVIEW*

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**James D. Montgomery**  
**University of Illinois Board of Trustees**

*March 7, 2013*



# Research Center Vision Grows

(the Advanced Digital Sciences Center)

*(2005-2008)*

- Relationship with Singapore began: sponsored student programs (late 1980's-early 2000s)
- Agency for Science, Technology, and Research (A\*STAR) visits campus and show interest in building research center modeled after College of Engineering's (COE) Coordinated Science Laboratory (CSL; 2005)
- CSL leadership and researchers visit Singapore and develop concept for major research initiative nurtured through multiple visits, technical workshops, etc. (2005-2008)
- A\*STAR suggests significant funding – of ~\$50 million – for funding of a new research center (ADSC) to be located in Singapore (2008)



# Why an Illinois IT Research Center in Singapore?



- Provide COE and Campus with entry into vibrant Asian technology environment and market
- Provide COE faculty with unique collaborative and funding opportunities for research with high potential impact



# Organizational Structure Unfolds

**SINGAPORE RESEARCH LLC**

**ILLINOIS**  
at Singapore Pte Ltd

- New formal legal/corporate structure built due to nature of grant and program
- Nov. 2008 – Illinois BOT approved initial framework for a new university related organization (URO): UI Singapore Research LLC (LLC)... a registered State of Illinois limited liability company
- Dec. 2008 – LLC establishes Illinois at Singapore PTE LTD (PTE) ... a private limited company and subsidiary of the LLC parent company
- Singapore-based PTE permits Singapore business transactions, including receipt of funding
- LLC and PTE each have a board of directors (currently comprised of UI/UIUC principals and designated Singaporeans)



# Entity Organizational Chart

University of Illinois Board of Trustees



UI Singapore Research LLC  
*-Board of Managers-*



Illinois at Singapore PTE LTD  
*-Board of Directors-*



Advanced Digital Sciences Center



# Advanced Digital Sciences Center (ADSC) — [adsc.illinois.edu](http://adsc.illinois.edu)

- At Fusionopolis – a vibrant research and development complex in Singapore
- Operates under the auspices of the PTE
- Extends a core University strength (Engineering) through a very substantive international research center
- Initial program period: April 2009 – April 2014



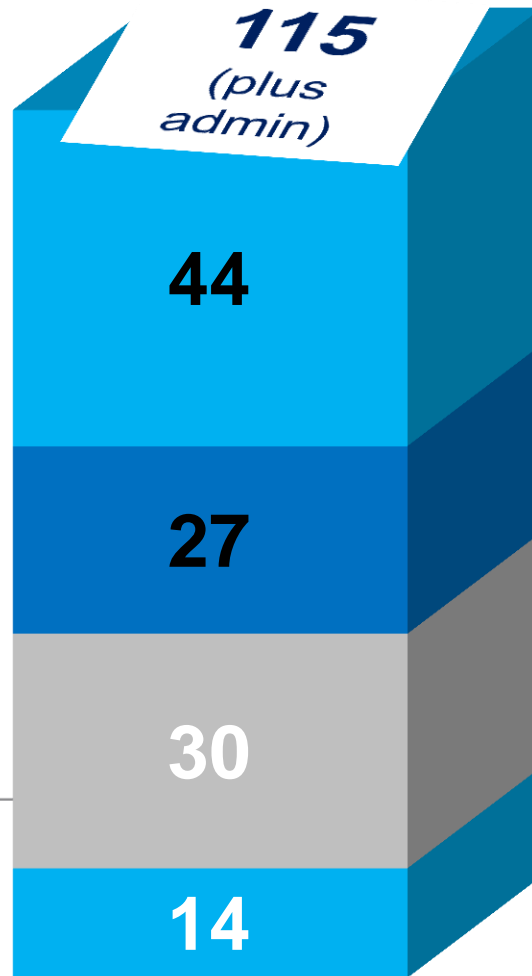


## ADSC – A University of Illinois Research Center in Singapore

- Research program delivery resides with UIUC College of Engineering via appointment of the Center's Director and seconding of participating Illinois faculty
- Supported at UIUC by Coordinated Science Laboratory with participating faculty from Computer Science and Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Additionally supported at UIUC by legal, business and financial services, sponsored programs, technology management and other



# ADSC – The Research Team



- Interns in 2012

- BS/MS degree holders

- PhD degree holders

- Illinois professors who visit every semester

Plus 8 affiliated PhD students from Illinois, NUS, NTU.





# ADSC Core Research

*Aims to transform the way people and organizations use and interact with information technology by addressing important and widely recognized research challenges in computer science and engineering*

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-OVERALL INITIATIVE-

Human Sixth Sense Program

-RESEARCH THEMES-

Interactive Digital Media

Smart Grid





## Summary: Key Benefits to Campus

- Funding being received by campus to cover costs associated with University's technical oversight expertise
- Faculty salary time buy-out provided
- Provision of funding and international educational opportunities for graduate students
- Tremendous learning experience operating a large international research center (the University's largest to date); developing a successful delivery model
- Enhancing University's core information technology programs; opening new revenue sources through licenses resulting



## Summary: Further Reaching Benefits

- Provide University with entry into vibrant Asian technology environment and market – opening avenues of opportunity throughout Illinois
- Provide COE faculty with unique opportunities for international leadership, expanded collaboration and new funding sources
- Research center's successful emergence globally; the program received a very positive mid-term review in summer 2012
- Strong potential for follow-on A\*STAR funding and broadening of support to other Singaporean sources

*Enhancing University's international presence and prestige as a global research leader*

