

COMPTECH @ Argonne through COMPRES Central (UIUC)
Bin Chen January 1, 2013-December 31, 2013

COMPTECH @ Argonne through UH subcontract
Jin Zhang November 15, 2014 – August 15, 2016

PI's perspective on two years of operation

Workforce development:

- The COMPTECH position provided a positive and valuable experience for both Technology Officers (TOs). Each one found an attractive tenure-track faculty position within fairly short time.
- COMPTECH position is flexible enough to allow the TO to stay research active and publish.
- COMPTECH position opens unique opportunities for TO to learn new technologies, establish new collaborations and become more visible.
- Both previous searches attracted very good pools of candidates.
- Rotation of TOs is not necessarily bad (each brings a new unique experience and background).

Buy-in:

- A lot of very valuable resources, staff and beam time allocated by GSECARS and Sector 34.
- Highest level technological expertise available on site.
- On-site full-time access to all the advanced on-line and off-line facilities (many paid for by COMPRES).
- Flexible access to PX² for new methodology testing.
- Natural “foot-in-the-doorway” position for new possible COMPRES initiatives at Argonne.
- Benefitted from significant contributions from UH (PI time, machine shop, equipment, student interns) and UIUC (machine shop, equipment).

Accomplishments:

- Established new valuable collaborations at Argonne (GSECARS and Sector 34) as well as outside (Univ. Frankfurt, IEDA).
- Will (most likely) lead to a new COMPRES PUP at Sector 34 in 2016.
- Developed several important transferrable technologies relevant for COMPRES.
- Developed educational/training materials
- Established a stable base and infrastructure for COMPRES office at Argonne.

Challenges:

- Communication of the COMPRES Committees with the TO was insufficient and the TO was not engaged e.g. in ID&E proposal review.
- Communication with the COMPRES community at large has been a little challenging.
- The novelty of this project and the subcontract setting introduced additional unnecessary uncertainty for continuity of funding and stability of the position.

Suggested way forward:

- Fund COMPTECH directly from COMPRES Central Office starting on June 1, 2016, with the project management and advisory in the current form.
- Continue the project in the current local setting with office at GSECARS.
- Hire the new TO before the current one leaves (preferably on June 1), to allow for transfer of knowledge.
- Involve the current and new TO in formulating the plan for COMPRES–IV.
- Focus the activities of the new TO on wrapping up current projects until the COMPRES renewal decision.
- Establish a process to select next major projects.