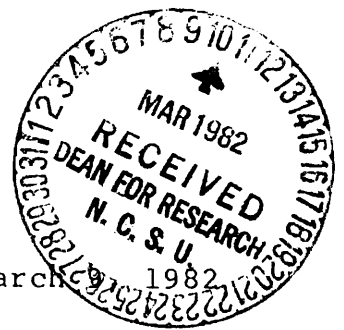




Office of the Chancellor

# North Carolina State University

Box 5067, Raleigh 27650



March 1982

President William Friday  
General Administration  
The University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill 311

Re: Authorization to Plan a University/Industry  
Cooperative Research Center for Communications

Dear President Friday:

A few years ago, the National Science Foundation established a Cooperative Research Center Program to encourage research activities between universities and industry. Pursuant to this, faculty members in the Departments of Electrical Engineering and Computer Studies submitted a proposal to the NSF and were awarded a grant for planning a University/Industry Cooperative Research Center for Communications.

At that time, the UNC General Administration office was informed, and concurred in our view that it was premature to request formal planning authorization, since the probability of a center being established was doubtful due to an array of budgetary changes at the NSF and uncertainties among potential industry sponsors. It now appears that there is a reasonable probability that the NSF will be able to fund some centers, and the reaction of various communication industries has been encouraging. You will recall that you met with this industry group at the Royal Villa on January 26, 1982. It now appears appropriate to request formal authorization to plan such a center at North Carolina State University. Accordingly, it is the purpose of this letter to seek approval for this activity in accordance with Administrative Memorandum No. 145.

It is requested that North Carolina State University be authorized to plan a NSF sponsored university/industry cooperative research center in the fields of communications and signal processing. If adequate industry and NSF support is obtained, it is our purpose to establish such a center as an official unit of the University.

The purposes are to conduct basic and applied research in the field, to enhance graduate education, and to strengthen university/industry relationships. The proposed funding will be partially from the NSF over the first five years, and with industry support of equal annual fees from a group of sponsoring communication industries.

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The work of the center will be accomplished by faculty members and graduate students of the Department of Electrical Engineering and the Computer Studies Program. These units have been active in communication research over a long period and their past achievements account for the NSF's decision to award a planning grant to NCSU. Communications is a field of critical importance to the nation, and there is a strong demand for new basic information and graduates to work productively in this field. The center will be unique in that it will be regarded as a national University/Industry Communications Research Center.

We are not aware of a similar unit within the UNC system, or within the State or nation. In the past, there has been a working relationship between NCSU and the Research Triangle Institute, and this may be continued on an "as needed" basis with the University subcontracting to RTI for specific tasks.

At the present time, the final number of industrial sponsors is not known, but it appears that there may be ten, perhaps more, who will contribute fees to the program in the amount of \$50,000 each per year. It is necessary for us to submit a final proposal to the NSF for the establishment of this center. We will seek NSF funding of approximately \$200,000 the first year. NSF support will be step funded downward in coming years in anticipation that there will be additional sponsors so that at the end of five years the proposed center will be entirely supported by industrial funds. Accordingly, we anticipate that the program will continue beyond the life of the NSF grant with sufficient industry support for a viable program. There are no requirements that NCSU be responsible for funding in the event that neither the NSF nor industrial funds are adequate.

Dr. J. B. O'Neal, Professor of Electrical Engineering, is the Principal Investigator for the current NSF planning grant, and it is anticipated that he will become the Program Director in the future. The present plans are that the Dean of the School of Engineering will have final authority over the center program and that operations will be conducted through the Program Director. The Dean will be advised by both the Program Director and an Industrial Research Board comprised of representatives of the industrial sponsors. The Center Director will be advised by an Academic Policy Committee to ensure integration among the faculty, and by a Research Program Committee to evaluate the future and ongoing research. Specific research projects will be allocated to appropriate faculty members.

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A meeting of interested corporations was held on January 26, 1982, to propose a method of operations and to solicit their support. The results of these considerations have led to a tentative proposal for their review.

On March 17, a meeting of potential industrial sponsors will be held to reach final agreement, and letters of commitment by sponsors are scheduled to be completed by April 15. With this information in hand, we will then submit a proposal to the NSF seeking its support and approval of the program of operation.

North Carolina State University is in competition with one other university for an award in communications, and with a number of other universities proposing cooperative research centers in fields other than communications.

In the event that the NSF is unable to fund the NCSU proposal, and sufficient industry interest remains, we will probably wish to pursue the establishment of a center with industry support alone.

I am persuaded that the implementation of such a program will be a much needed activity on a national basis, and that it will support the development of a peerless program of education for graduate students in the field of communications and thus enhance our posture in the academic and industrial worlds. It seems to me that the program is entirely consistent with national policy, the enhancement of this institution, and the welfare of North Carolina. Accordingly, I respectfully request your Authorization to Plan.

Sincerely,



Nash N. Winstead  
Acting Chancellor

cc: Dean H. B. Smith  
Dr. F. D. Hart  
Dr. N. A. Masnari  
Dean L. K. Monteith  
Dr. J. B. O'Neal  
Provost Office



North Carolina State University  
Research Administration

Office of the Dean

March 5, 1982

P. O. Box 5356  
Raleigh, N.C. 27650  
(919)737-2117

Dr. N. N. Winstead  
Acting Chancellor  
"A" Holladay  
NCSU Campus

Dear Nash:

Attached hereto is a draft letter to President Friday requesting "Authorization to Plan a University/Industry Cooperative Research Center in Communications." This letter has been reviewed by Dr. O'Neal and it conforms with the requirements set forth in Administrative Memorandum No. 145.

I trust that this is satisfactory.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry E. Smith".

Henry E. Smith  
Dean for Research

HBS:j

cc: Dr. F. D. Hart  
Dr. N. A. Masnari  
Dean L. K. Monteith  
Dr. J. B. O'Neal