STATEMENT OF INTENT (SOI)
Between
THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
BY AND ON BEHALF OF
THE GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
AND
MOSCOW INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Purpose

To meet the needs of society and economy, two internationally renowned institutions, Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech – GT) and Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology (National Research University – MIPT) seek to develop a collaborative program at the PhD level in Bioinformatics. This Statement of Intent expresses the desire of both parties to work together to develop such a program.

GT and MIPT believe that collaborative programs promote research and educational excellence addressing requirements of increasingly complicated technological and global economic development. The envisioned "GT-MIPT Strategic Alliance" will build an infrastructure for collaborative programs in education and fruitful research collaboration of faculty and graduate students at both Institutions.

The new collaboration will offer a unique means for U.S. and Russian students to learn and conduct high quality research. Graduates of the programs will be prepared to become global leaders of innovation in their home countries and around the world.

We anticipate that the GT-MIPT collaboration will form a framework that would allow for further extension of this initial Statement of Intent on a Collaborative PhD program in Bioinformatics to additional departments of MIPT as well as affiliated Research Institutes of Russian scientific organisations (mainly Russian Academy of Sciences) interested in becoming members of the Alliance.

Existing similarities in scientific interests of both partners makes it highly likely that the collaboration will have strong synergetic effects in performing joint research. High quality research reflected in joint publications in high profile scientific magazines will allow increasing a number of joint applications for third party funding at national and international levels.

The Collaborative PhD Program in Bioinformatics has three major components:

- Joint Research – establishing collaborations, co-advising graduate students conducting research at both campuses, preparation of joint publications, organisation of joint scientific events (conferences, workshops and schools), preparation of joint application for research grants
- Joint Education and Training – establishing of joint curriculums as well as procedures and standards for student admission, teaching courses for graduate students at two campuses,
- Administration – maintenance and improvement of research and teaching infrastructure, student recruiting, admission, and progress monitoring, organization of joint events.

Financial support of the joint research and training envisioned and conducted under the Alliance auspices will be provided by both sides on a bilateral basis and will depend upon availability of funds as determined in each parties sole discretion.
Thus sustainability of the Alliance activities will be depending on productivity of participating faculty members and their success in getting research grants from government agencies, industry and national/international funds.

2. Parties' Intentions

This Statement of Intent expresses GT and MIPT's present intention to:

(i) Work toward the establishment of a Collaborative PhD Program in Bioinformatics at Georgia Tech that will allow MIPT students to earn a PhD in Bioinformatics;

(ii) Develop a mutually agreed structure in the form of a separate, written Operating Agreement for administering the Collaborative PhD Program;

(iii) Explore other possible forms of research and education collaborations.

This Statement of Intent may be amended and supplemented in writing at any time as decided and agreed by mutual written consent of the Parties.

No Party shall have the right to contract on behalf of the other Party or make any commitment, representation, or warranty for or on behalf of the other Party as a result of this Statement of Intent.

GT and MIPT agree to comply with all applicable export control laws and regulations in each country including in the US the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

GT and MIPT agree that any activity initiated under this agreement, shall be contingent upon the execution of appropriate written agreements containing mutually agreeable terms and conditions specific to each activity. Nothing contained herein shall commit any Party to perform any specific obligation whatsoever, and its purpose is to express the intention of the parties to proceed. MIPT acknowledges that any joint degree developed by the parties will have to be approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia prior to implementation.

This Agreement expires five years from the date of execution. However, upon reaching its goals it may be replaced by a new Agreement specifying further strategic collaborative goals. Still, at any time the Agreement can be terminated by one of the parties by a written notice submitted one year before the date of termination.

Given the prevalence of English language in the current research and publishing practice the Agreement is written in two original documents in English. All written communication within the GT-MIPT Strategic Alliance is supposed to be done in English. Each party shall retain one of the said original documents.

Date: Moscow, July 11, 2012
Moscow Institute for Physics and Technology

Dr. Nickolay Nickolayevich Kudryavtsev, Institute Rektor

Date: Atlanta, June 30, 2012
Georgia Institute of Technology

Dr. Steven McLaughlin, Vice Provost for International Initiatives

Approved as to GT Legal Form: [Signature]