

Office of Major Agreements

The Office of Major Agreements (OMA) has two main areas of responsibility. The first is to support MIT's faculty, staff, and students in the pursuit of educational and research opportunities that will take place beyond the MIT Cambridge campus; most of these activities will be outside the United States. The second is to support MIT faculty and staff to pursue business relationships beyond sponsored research or individual gifts. OMA collaborates closely with staff in the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), Office of the Vice President for Finance (VPF), Information Services & Technology (IS&T), and the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) to provide support to other units at MIT.

Key Accomplishments

Acceptance of Credit/Debit Cards for Payment

The goal of the Payment Card Industry (PCI) project is to support the continued growth, in a safe and secure manner, of any MIT merchant who wishes to offer a means of electronic card payment for goods, gifts, and services, including registration fees, ticket sales, and application fees. (MIT currently does not accept credit card payment for tuition.) This project was completed on schedule on June 30, 2008, and will enter a post-production phase to ensure compliance with PCI regulations for accepting credit cards. The PCI project team is led by Christina Williams (OMA) and Sandy Pata (IS&T).

Singapore–MIT Alliance for Research Technology Centre

The Singapore–MIT Alliance for Research Technology (SMART) is an MIT-owned subsidiary operating a research center in Singapore. SMART is funded by the National Research Foundation, an agency of the Government of the Republic of Singapore. As part of a team led by the vice president for research and staff from the Technology Licensing Office (TLO), OSP, and the Singapore–MIT Alliance (SMA), OMA assisted in the negotiation of the agreement to establish the center.

Since the official signing of the agreement, a project has been under way to provide for infrastructural support for financial and regulatory reporting. OMA co-led the project team for SMART, accomplishing the following: set up the SAP system for SMART, multi-currency accounting, and banking arrangements, and obtained third-party services in Singapore. This effort included staff from OMA, SMA, the MIT Investment Management Company, OGC, and IS&T.

Center for Clean Water and Clean Energy at MIT and KFUPM

King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM), in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, entered into an seven-year research and education agreement with MIT's Mechanical Engineering Department to create the Center for Clean Water and Clean Energy at MIT and KFUPM. OMA co-led the negotiation of the agreement and will assist in the establishment of the accounting and reporting mechanisms for the program. The team that worked on the project included staff from OGC, VPF, OSP, TLO, and the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Other Transactions

OMA assisted with smaller agreements, including those for:

- Services provided by the MIT Nuclear Reactor Laboratory
- Cargo container testing at Bates Linear Accelerator Center
- Compliance with new federal requirements for the disclosure of information about textbooks used in courses (in collaboration with the MIT Libraries, the Dean for Undergraduate Education, IS&T, and the MIT Coop)
- Services provided by MIT's Clinical Research Center
- A program for visiting students from South Africa
- The Media Lab Opera, to be held in September 2009

Priorities for FY2009

OMA's priorities for FY2009 are to:

- Continue to provide assistance with transactions to MIT and its departments
- Assist the VPF with data required by the new Internal Revenue Service Form 990 (Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax)
- Work with others to develop a process for recording contract information in SAP
- Work with others to establish standard processes and templates for like transactions
- Continue to support the financial management needs of SMART

Staff

OMA staff members include director James L. Morgan and assistant director Christina Williams.

James L. Morgan
Director