

Solution Mining Research Institute

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SMRI Research Committee Member Responsibilities

One of the primary activities of the SMRI is sponsored research in areas of interest to its membership. The development and management of the SMRI research is accomplished through the SMRI Research Committee, (RC). The SMRI RC consists of eight members (selected from the SMRI membership by the SMRI Executive Committee) and is led by the SMRI Vice President/Research Chairman. The RC is managed by the SMRI Research Coordinator, Dr. Leo Van Sambeek, with guidance from the Research Chairman and Executive Director.

The SMRI Research Committee includes four members from North America and four members from outside North America. The Executive Committee strives to maintain a balance of expertise in the Research Committee membership by selecting committee members from solution mining companies, energy storage companies, service companies, researchers, and consultants. Each RC member serves a term of four years and as membership terms expire, new committee members are selected from RC applications. Membership on the RC has proven very competitive in recent years, with a list of highly qualified applicants, while we always wish to add expertise to the available list. After serving on the RC, members often apply and are selected for Executive Committee service, as they know the industry, learn the SMRI procedures, and demonstrate their effectiveness while on the RC.

RC membership is on a volunteer basis and requires a significant commitment of time and resources, so they are encouraged to obtain support from their employer before applying for the RC. If during the course of a term, an RC member's employer or the RC member determines that the RC commitment cannot be continued, the committee member is encouraged to resign. If this situation arises, the SMRI Executive Committee will appoint a new committee member to complete the term of the RC member who resigned.

Specific responsibilities of the RC members include:

- ✓ Develop and periodically update the SMRI Research Plan
- ✓ Attend 2 RC meetings per year, normally occurring on the Saturday morning preceding SMRI conferences
- ✓ Communicate with the SMRI membership and develop ideas and concepts for Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to address the research interests of and represent the membership
- ✓ Review and evaluate all research proposals and participate in RC decision on funding recommendations.
- ✓ Review draft research reports of active research projects of the SMRI
- ✓ Serve as SMRI Project Sponsor as agreed by the Research Coordinator and RC.

Occasionally, individual RC members may be unable to satisfy one or more of the specific responsibilities listed above, a sometimes unavoidable situation in this business world. However, if an RC member persists in not fulfilling responsibilities listed above, the Executive Committee may be forced to ask that member to resign his or her position.

Conflicts of interest are avoided by excluding any RC individuals from final research proposal discussions and RC votes on any research proposals in which they or their employer have a financial interest.

Appreciation for the RC Members is regularly acknowledged during SMRI meetings and is recognized on the website. The organization's membership is most grateful for this extra effort and dedication for the betterment of the industry, and we acknowledge each RC team member's contribution to the very professional work of the SMRI RC.

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