

Alternative Fly Ash Research Consortium (AFARC)

Overview

1. Vision. The vision of the Alternative Fly Ash Research Consortium (AFARC) is to emerge as the leading university-industry consortium to (a) address the key gaps in protocol and testing related to alternatives for Class C and F fly ash (b) help facilitate new alternatives to be approved for use by TxDOT in their projects.

2. Mission. The mission of the AFARC is to advance the industrial intelligence frontier forward through university-industry collaboration on alternative fly ash composition and materials research and education to realize the vision of resolving the fly ash shortage issue. The specific focus will be on making protocols and testing guidelines to screen new alternative mixtures for approval and direct adoption for use in TxDOT and other industrial projects.

3. AFARC organizational structure and operational procedures. The AFARC consists of academic members (see Section 8 for current list) and paid industry members. There are two levels of annual membership fees for industry members: \$25,000.00 for larger companies and \$10,000.00 for smaller companies. The boundary between a larger and a smaller company is considered to be 25 employees and/or \$5 million of gross annual income. The membership fee is used to support pre-competitive, non-proprietary research projects conducted by the academic members. The AFARC is governed by Bylaws.

Industry members drive the annual research agenda through their vote and participation. Members will propose recommended alternatives to be included in the testing and protocol development. The chair, the director, and board members will vote on the specific alternative fly ash mixtures to be rigorously tested each year.

Texas A&M University is a tier-one research institution with the 3rd largest engineering program in the nation as measured by annual research expenditures. The CIR opened April 2018 and is a research and conference facility boasting over 138,000 square feet, and 10 laboratories that facilitates joint projects with 9 TAMU departments over 4 TAMU colleges. Focusing on research, innovation and workforce development, the CIR is a national leader in the development of transformative infrastructure solutions. Its labs innovate new materials, technologies and processes to create solutions that last longer, have lower costs, and can be built in less time.

4. Benefits for Consortium industrial members. The main benefits are summarized as follows:

- Direct influence on annual research agenda
- Facilitated access to:
 - a pool of skilled graduate students
 - CIR faculty/researcher expertise
 - CIR state-of-the-art lab facilities

- Early access to consortium reports and publications
- Representation and participation in AFARC meetings and activities
- Discounted rates on CIR research conferences/workshops where attendees can earn professional development hours (PDH's)
- Lead and/or participate in workforce development/continuing education opportunities at the CIR

5. Contact.

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