

## **Announcement for the Search for the President of Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology**

**Background:** The Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST: <http://www.oist.jp>) is a new international research university of science and technology in Okinawa, Japan. The aim of OIST is to build a graduate university of international standing for the promotion of science and technology, create a true center of excellence in the Asia-pacific region and contribute to the sustainable development of Okinawa. The university will be committed to achieving global networking and collaboration with industry. Under the leadership of the founding President Sydney Brenner and the OIST Board of Governors, the first stage of construction of the permanent campus will be complete in early 2010. Twenty –one research units (11 international, 10 Japanese) have already been established, with over 160 researchers (50 international) in temporary laboratories. Graduate students will be accepted in 2010 through joint agreements with other universities. The next stage is the development of the campus for about 50 faculty members and accreditation as an independent university prior to opening in 2012. The initial areas of research are neuroscience, molecular science, mathematical and computational biology, and environmental science, but the aim is to promote research which is highly interdisciplinary, adding and integrating such core areas as bioscience, chemistry, physics, computer and information science, mathematics, and engineering. With the mission to promote international research, the language of instruction is English and around half of the faculty, researchers and graduate students will be foreign nationals. Initial funding will be provided by the Japanese government, but independent funding is expected to increase steadily over time. The campus is located on 85 hectares of undeveloped semitropical forest overlooking beautiful beaches and reefs in Onnason on the west coast of Okinawa, with adequate provision for housing and international schooling.

### ***Duties and responsibilities:***

1. The position as President will be a 5-year full-time and renewable appointment.
2. The President is appointed by the Board of Governors of OIST. The Board has final authority for the finances and appointments of the university. Close cooperation between the President and the Board is essential to the success of the university.
3. The term of the President begins with the establishment of the university in late 2011 or early 2012. The President-elect will be appointed as an establishment committee member until then and will work with the Board to ensure the opening of the new OIST campus facility in 2012, provide directions for the expansion of the university, be actively involved in the recruitment of scientists of international standing, and in the building of a first rate international university.
4. The President has full responsibility for the operations of the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology and should work closely with the other officers and senior management of the university. The responsibilities involve the hiring of outstanding faculty and researchers, developing strategic plans for the university and overseeing research, academic affairs and budget. Additional responsibilities are the building of academic and industrial partnerships, and the fostering of positive relations with and encouraging the development of the Okinawa community.
5. International recruitment and fund-raising will require that the President travel periodically. However, even during periods of absence, the President should maintain close involvement in the operations of OIST

### ***Qualifications:***

The President of OIST must have the following qualifications:

1. Excellent scientific credentials to enable recruitment of first rate faculty and research scientists and the formation of partnerships with other universities and institutions.
2. Experience in university administration and teaching to be able to utilize effectively and efficiently the resources available to the University.
3. Experience of working in an international environment
4. Excellent communication skills to ensure good public relations with scientists, government, and the community
5. There is no restriction with regard to age or nationality.

**Applications:** Applications should include (1) a cover letter addressed to OIST President Search Committee, (2) CV, (3) statement of interest and relevant research and administrative accomplishments, and (4) names and contact information for 5 references. Submit applications electronically to [oistpresidentsearch@oist.jp](mailto:oistpresidentsearch@oist.jp) or by post mail to Attn: OIST President Search, 7542 Onna, Onna-son, Okinawa, Japan 904-0411. Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and the position will remain open until it is filled.