The Center for Research and Development of Functional Materials (CDFM) is an evolution of the Multidisciplinary Center for the Development of Ceramic Materials (MCDCM), which received FAPESP funding in the first phase of the RIDC program. At the core of the MCDCM was the ability to synthesize materials with controlled chemical composition, microstructure, and morphology.

Since then, in pace with the accelerated transformations that have already occurred in this century, global needs have changed drastically. Currently, three main concerns are emerging to address those needs: renewable energy, health and the natural environment. During the same period, the materials science community has been engaged with the research and development of functional and nanostructured materials that can be useful for meeting these new societal needs. Therefore, CDFM will use its skill in research and development of functional and nanostructured materials with tailored properties to solve problems related to renewable energy, health and the natural environment.

In terms of innovation and technological transfer, the new RIDC will be directly connected to the basic research program and will act in the following areas: 1) Pilot plants for functional nanoparticles, 2) Development of new applications for functional materials, and 3) Generation of spin-off companies.

Concerning activities related to education and training, a preferred target audience will be high school teachers, to whom the Center will offer extension courses geared to the use of information and communication technology in science education. The Center will also offer teaching strategies aimed at improving teacher performance in the classroom. The conceptual mapping technique, which allows teachers to build and relate concepts, to represent knowledge in a hierarchical way, to share knowledge meaning between teachers and students and to facilitate learning and scientific reasoning, is one of the main tools that will be used. Moreover, a specialized course in science journalism is planned.
Host Institution

São Paulo State University (UNESP, campus Araraquara)

Associated Institutions

University of São Paulo (USP)
Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP)
Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar)
Federal University of ABC (UFABC)
The Energetic and Nuclear Research Institute (IPEN)
The Center for Information Technology Renato Archer (CTI)
The Foundation for Research Support in Information Technology (FacTI)
The Brazilian Center for Research in Energy and Materials (CNPEM)

Principal Investigator

Elson Longo da Silva, UNESP

Education and Knowledge Diffusion Coordinator

Antonio Carlos Hernandes, USP

Technology Transfer Coordinator

Edson Roberto Leite, UFSCar

Co-Principal Investigators

Adilson Jesus Aparecido de Oliveira, UFSCar
Antonio Carlos Hernandez, USP
Carlos Eduardo Vergani, UNESP
Carlos Frederico de Oliveira Graeff, UNESP
Edson Roberto Leite, UFSCar
Ernesto Chaves Pereira de Souza, UFSCar
José Arana Varela, UNESP
Maria Aparecida Zaghe Bertocchi, UNESP
Mario Cilense, UNESP
Reginaldo Muccillo, IPEN
Renato de Figueiredo Jardim, USP

Associated Researchers

Adenilson José Chiquito, UFSCar
Alexandre Zirpoli Simões, UNESP
Ana Lucia Machado, UNESP
Angel Fidel Vilche Pena, UNESP
Antonio Jose Ramirez Londono, CNPEM
Beatriz Eleutério Goi, UNESP
Caio Marcio Paranhos da Silva, UFSCar
Carlos Alberto Ospina Ramirez, CNPEM
Carlos de Oliveira Paiva Santos, UNESP
Celly Mieko Shinohara Izumi, UFSCar
Celso Xavier Cardoso, UNESP
Cláudio Luiz Carvalho, UNESP
Elcio Marcantonio Junior, UNESP
Eliana Navarro dos Santos Muccillo, IPEN
Emerson Rodrigues de Camargo, UFSCar
Fabrio Ronil Sensato, UNIFESP
Fenelon Martinho Lima Pontes, UNESP
Flavio Leandro de Souza, UFABC
Ieda Lucia Viana Rosa, UFSCar
João Baptista Baldo, UFSCar
José Antonio Malmonge, UNESP
Julio Ricardo Sambrano, UNESP
Lucia Helena Mascaro, UFSCar
Marcelo Ornaghi Orlandi, UNESP
Marcos Fernando de Souza Teixeira, UNESP
Maria Ines Basso Bernardi, USP
Paulo Noronha Lisboa Filho, UNESP
Ricardo Cotrin Teixeira, FacTI
Silvio Rainho Teixeira, UNESP
Talita Mazon, CTI Renato Archer
Valmor Roberto Mastelaro, USP
Walter Katsumi Sakamoto, UNESP