UVA Partnership with MaxNet Energy

Research Initiative with Max Planck Institute for Chemical Energy Conversion

Dr. Phil Parrish, UVA Interim VP Research
Max Planck Society

- Formed in 1911, Max Planck is Germany's most recognized and acclaimed research organization (cf. Scripps, but much larger and broader)
- 32 Nobel laureates
- There are 82 Max Planck Institutes spanning diverse fields (natural sciences, life sciences, social sciences, and the humanities)
- 2006 Times Higher Education rankings of non-university research institutions (based on international peer review) placed the Max Planck Society No.1 in the world for science research
Joint UVA / MaxNet Energy Partnership

- Development of new energy resources among society’s most pressing and difficult challenges
- Increased federal investment in research for energy (DOE: ~$450M in 2014, emphasis for Department of Defense)

**Objective:** Establish a UVA-Max Planck long term partnership *(MaxNet Energy has been funded for minimum of ten years)*

- Only 2 Max Planck centers in the US (Princeton – Plasma Physics) and Neuroscience (Palm Beach, FL)
- Initial goal is to distinguish UVA through partnership with world class research groups at MPI-CEC, enhancement of student educational experience
- Nine faculty from UVA initially involved – from SEAS and College
- UVA and the MPS have committed ~$4M ($2M each) in seed funding over 5 years
Brent Gunnoe will serve as the inaugural Director of the program.
Initial Joint Projects


Photo-electrocatalysis (Sunlight to Fuels): Giovanni Zangari

Natural Gas to Liquid Fuels: Brent Gunnoe & Bob Davis
UVa – Max Planck Global Partnership: Benefits to UVa

- Three initial collaborative seed research projects involving faculty, Max Planck scientists, postdocs, graduate students, supplies, travel

- Global research experience for UVA faculty & students in premier international research institute

- Access to world-class research partners/student mentors, and to research labs and equipment not available at UVA

- Goal to develop externally funded projects by year 3 - US and EU funded

- Long term goal is self-sustaining collaborative research with the Max Planck Society and expanded research at UVA in energy sciences