



## The Innofuse Framework Play Rules

Dear Innofuse Member and Admitted Person,

Welcome to our ecosystem! We are glad you made it to become a member of the Innofuse Family. The following play rules shall provide guidance to ensure smooth collaboration, effective communication, and optimal use of resources within the network. If you signed up for a membership, you have already agreed to these simple rules.

- 1. Respect and Diversity:** As a member of Innofuse, you are part of an ecosystem of highly educated experts. We encounter each other with respect and gratitude for the chance to interact with one another. Diversity is not only a natural fact; it is the core of innovation. Only different perspectives reveal the 360° view of a problem to be solved. Diversity is, therefore, a necessity we value and appreciate at Innofuse. Naturally, we respect all aspects of diversity, including culture, origin, opinion, and more. We foster an inclusive environment that welcomes and appreciates diverse talents and contributions.
- 2. Clear Communication:** Use precise and unambiguous language to convey ideas and information within the network.
- 3. Innovation and Creativity:** Foster an environment that encourages out-of-the-box thinking and creative problem-solving. Recognize and celebrate innovative ideas and successful implementations.
- 4. Politics:** Politics is a discipline that we leave to the politicians, who are paid for it. Innofuse does not support any dedicated political orientation. The Innofuse tools shall not be used as a political instrument.
- 5. ID Transparency** is key in a multi-industrial/academic Ecosystem. This includes a) conduct a verification process through Innofuse, b) wearing a visible badge that identifies you at any time, visible to all members interacting with you virtually and/or in the physical space. In case you accidentally enter an interaction with a competitor and your counterpart does not identify you as such you are obligated to inform your counterpart immediately. This also applies in passive situations, e.g., listening to a coffee talk. **Important note:** Innofuse has a **zero-tolerance policy in case of intentional espionage**. Any member disrespecting these rules will be excluded by Innofuse with immediate action, without the need for evidence, nor refunding membership costs. Innofuse will report the case to the affected entity, which will decide on further legal consequences. Communicating with unverified members is at your own risk. Please note that such unverified members will be appropriately labeled.
- 6. Collaborative Problem-Solving:** Encourage interdisciplinary collaboration to address complex engineering challenges. Foster a culture of brainstorming and idea sharing to promote innovative solutions.
- 7. Fair Play:** Share your expertise openly and directly if you are involved in a collaboration triggered via an Innofuse channel (Brainstorming, Chat, and any other collaboration). In case you cannot display a solution due to confidentiality, inform your counterpart that there is more that you are not allowed to share. Hiding information, especially if taken advantage of in the collaboration (e.g., filing a patent before displaying the solution, etc.), goes against our credo and will be investigated in case of damage to an entity. Innofuse offers various



membership packages, and Members are not to aim at circumventing contractually owed package prices by not reporting Admitted Persons in accordance with the Agreement.

8. **Confidentiality** is crucial. Therefore, your membership agreement already contains an NDA/CDA (Non-Disclosure and Confidentiality Disclosure Agreement) clause, valid for all collaborative interactions between you and another Innofuse Member and its entity. This allows you to talk to your counterpart as if you had signed a regular NDA/CDA with them. This bi-directional agreement is an inherent part of your membership and generally valid, also between Innofuse members. Therefore, keep information confidential, especially between competitors, in case you were involved in discussions with both parties. Members are allowed to have people sign their own NDA/CDA in addition to the Innofuse general one if needed. If clauses overlap between the agreements, the additional individual agreements are considered valid.
9. **Knowledge Sharing:** Share knowledge and experiences openly to enhance the collective intelligence of the network. Document lessons learned, best practices, and project insights for future reference.
10. **Know How and Technology display:** Show as much as needed to be understood / found, but do not display any sensitive data or confidential competitive know-how of your organization. Therefore, you do not need to display the exact "how" but the "what".

Good Example (WHAT): "We developed a method to spin bioresorbable polymeric (PLLA) fiber material, resulting in an outstanding elastic and robust material mesh, reaching a tensile strength of 300 N/mm<sup>2</sup> at an elongation of 200%."

Bad example (HOW): "We developed a method to spin PLLA bioresorbable fiber material to a metallic substrate made from AuPdPtIr, feasible only if an argon gas atmosphere is applied and cooled to 263.15 Kelvin or lower and by applying a high frequency between 20 MHz to 23.5 MHz."

11. **Sustainable Practices:** Promote environmentally responsible engineering practices and designs that consider sustainability and long-term impacts. Advocate for energy efficiency, waste reduction, and responsible resource utilization.
12. **Intellectual Properties:** If a solution elaborated in the Interactions at or via Innofuse (Chat, Brainstorming, any kind of collaborations) is filed to a patent, the idea-giving individuals shall be informed and listed as inventor(s) if their input is directly used in the patent claims. The entity providing the problem to be solved has the right to patent the solution. The inventors shall receive adequate compensation for their ideas if the patent owner ultimately utilizes the invention. A fixed rate of 30% of the earnings (including patent earnings) in the first earning-generating year or royalties of 3% to 5% during the lifetime of the patent or an ad hoc payment upon agreement between the patent owner and inventor(s) are considered as adequate compensation for inventor(s). The inventor(s) retain a non-exclusive right to use the invention within the scope of their teaching, research, and business work. In case the Inventor(s) is filing a patent himself, he is obliged to offer at least a "non-exclusive" right to use the invention on reasonable terms if it falls within the scope of the problem-providing entity's business operations. Innofuse as an organization retain a non-exclusive right to use the invention.
13. **Quality Assurance:** Innofuse has the right to regularly or irregularly check the quality of the contents provided in the network for quality assurance reasons. Contents can be deleted if they do not comply with the presented Innofuse Framework Play Rules.