Partnership agreement
governing the joint supervision and awarding of a doctorate diploma between
Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Université libre de Bruxelles.

Between

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels (Belgium),
hereinafter referred to as ‘VUB’,
represented by Prof. dr. Paul De Knap, Rector,

and

Université libre de Bruxelles, Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 50, 1050 Bruxelles,
hereinafter referred to as ‘ULB’,
represented by Prof. dr. Didier Viviers, Rector,

jointly referred to as the ‘the partner institutions’

and

Almasri Feras, hereinafter referred to as ‘the doctoral candidate’,

in which the aforementioned parties are jointly referred to as ‘the parties’,

and in due observance of the following:

- the Flemish Higher Education Code (Codex Hoger Onderwijs) of 20 December 2013;
- the Flemish Government’s decision of 11 June 2004 establishing the form of the diplomas and
  the content of the accompanying diploma supplement awarded by institutions of higher
  education in Flanders, and annexes 5 and 6 in particular;
- the VUB Central Regulations regarding the Conferment of PhD degrees, approved by the
  Academic Council on 5th October 2015;
- the VUB Regulation on Valorisation, approved by the Board of Directors on 17 March 1998;
- the Decree dated 7th November 2013 « définissant le paysage de l’enseignement supérieur et
  l’organisation académique des études »;
- the ULB PhD regulations, as approved by the Board of the University on July 1st 2013
- the readiness on the part of professors Olivier Debeir (co Gauthier Lafruit) and Touhafi,
  Abdellah (co An Braeken) to assume supervision of the joint doctorate in execution of the
  present agreement;

the following has been agreed:
Article 1 – Joint Supervision and the Award of a Doctoral Degree

The partner institutions hereby agree that they shall assume joint responsibility for the supervision of the Doctoral candidate’s doctoral research project, the organisation of the doctoral examination and the award of a doctoral degree.

Doctoral candidate’s personal details:
- Surname and first name: Almasri Feras
- Official address (for correspondence):
  Laboratories of Image, Signal processing and Acoustics. ULB - LISA CP165/57
  50, Av. F.Roosevelt
  1050 Bruxelles, Belgium
- E-mail address: falamasri@ulb.ac.be
- Date of birth: 22/08/1986
- Place of birth: ALQASSIM
- Nationality: Syria

Article 2. – Supervision of the Doctoral Candidate

The doctoral candidate shall be supervised by the following PhD supervisors:

At VUB:
- Name: Touhafi Abdellah, Braeken An (co-supervisor)
- Faculty or Department: ETRO-IRIS en INDI
- Position: Pr & Pr

At ULB:
- Name: Olivier Debeir, Gauthier Laffruit (co-supervisor)
- Faculty or Department: LISA/Image Ecole polytechnique
- Position: Pr & Pr

The two PhD supervisors undertake to assume fully their responsibilities as the Doctoral candidate’s supervisors, which includes holding consultations when required so as to be able to assess the progress being made in the research project.

Article 3. – Supervisory Committee & Progress Monitoring

The research and progress of the doctoral candidate will be monitored according to both institutions’ procedures.

At ULB, a supervisory committee will be set up, comprising both supervisors and a minimum of 2 additional members.

The supervisory committee sets the content of the doctoral training and awards credits for activities carried out as part of the doctoral training at ULB. The committee meets with the doctoral candidate at least once per year before April 30th in order to assess progress and to prepare the annual progress report meant for VUB’s PhD Progress Monitoring Commission. On the basis of this annual evaluation, the supervisory committee informs the relevant authorities at both institutions of their opinion regarding re-enrolment.

Article 4. – Intermediate Evaluation

Before the end of the second year of the PhD, the doctoral candidate will be subjected to an intermediate evaluation by their supervisory committee, in order to assess whether their thesis can be...
completed according to schedule. The doctoral candidate must pass the intermediate evaluation before proceeding to defend their thesis.
If the intermediate evaluation is successful, then the work that led to it is validated with 20 doctoral training credits at ULB.

**Article 5. - Admission to doctoral studies - Doctoral thesis subject**

The PhD candidate has been admitted to the doctoral programme by both partner institutions:

At VUB:
- admission to the doctoral programme in Engineering
- in academic year: 2016

At ULB:
- admission to the doctoral training and the PhD in “sciences de l'ingénieur et technologie”
- in the Graduate College: Musics (Multimedia, Silicon, Communications and Security)
- in academic year: 2016

The subject of the doctoral thesis is
Multi-modal Deep Learning towards the next generation of smart and visual sensor networks

**Article 6. - Enrolment and registration fees**

Each academic year, the doctoral candidate is required to (re-)register as a doctoral candidate at both partner institutions and pay the fixed registration fees. Enrolment is compulsory from the moment this agreement takes effect.

**Article 7. - Award of the degree**

In conformity with the regulations in force within each institution and on the basis of a favourable report from the examination board, the two institutions undertake to award a double doctorate to the successful candidate, via two separate diplomas.

The two partner institutions undertake to award a double degree of

**Doctor in Engineering from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel**
and

**Docteur en Sciences de l'Ingénieur et Technologie from the Université libre de Bruxelles**

The awarded diplomas will mention the partnership with the other institution and the joint supervision of the thesis.

**Article 8. - Insurance cover**

The doctoral candidate is covered for personal liability and physical injury through his/her registration for a doctoral degree at both partner institutions; social security coverage is provided by him or herself.

**Article 9. - Research at partner institution**

The doctoral candidate shall spend alternate or consecutive research periods at both partner institutions. The research periods are to be agreed following consultation between the doctoral candidate and the
supervisors. The supervisors shall see to it that the doctoral candidate spends a minimum of 12 months of research at each of the partner institutions.

Article 10. – Doctoral Training Programme

The doctoral candidate must meet the requirements of the ULB doctoral training programme, before proceeding to the defence of the thesis. The programme amounts to 60 credits. It comprises at least training by research, specific to the field of research (e.g. research seminars, publications and conference participation) and may also comprise non-mandatory training on generic skills. The intermediate evaluation during the second year, when successful, accounts to 20 credits.

The doctoral candidate will also be entitled to participate in the doctoral training programme at VUB and to request the Attestation or Certificate, according to the relevant regulations.

All training activities may be validated twice, i.e. as part of the ULB and the VUB doctoral training programmes, whatever the organising institution.

Article 11. – Financial Provisions

Any contribution towards the costs related to periods of research spent at the partner institute, attendance of national and international conferences, the organisation of the PhD defence, and other costs specific to the PhD programme shall be discussed and determined in mutual agreement between the supervisors from the partner institutions.

Article 12. – Examination Board for the Doctoral Examination

The examination board set up for the doctoral examination (doctoral thesis and the defence of the thesis) shall be composed by mutual consent between the partner institutions, in accordance with the regulations in force at the institutions.

The examination board shall consist of a minimum of two members from each institution, including both supervisors, and minimum of two external members.

The supervisory committee may not constitute a majority in the examination board.

Article 13. – Doctoral Thesis Defence

The public defence of the doctoral thesis shall take place at one of the partner institutions but shall be recognised by both institutions.

In the present case the public defence will take place at the ULB.

Prior to the public defence a private defence will be organized at the VUB.

Article 14. – Language

Doctoral Thesis:
The doctoral thesis shall be written in English
An abstract of the doctoral thesis shall be supplied in French

Defence:
The defence of the doctoral thesis is to take place in English

Article 15. – Protection of Research Results and Property Rights

The research results arising from the doctoral research project shall be the property of VUB and ULB.
The protection of the research results resulting from the doctoral research project, as well as any matter related to filing them, making them accessible, their publication and exploitation shall be discussed and agreed by the partner institutions and be in accordance with the national and institutional regulations in force.

Article 16. — Commencement and validity of the agreement

This Agreement becomes effective as from the date of signature by the last duly authorised representatives of each Party and by the doctoral candidate and shall remain in full force and effect until the end of the academic year when the thesis is defended.

The present joint supervision shall take effect in academic year 2016

Article 17. — Settlemens of disputes

The stipulations of this agreement may not conflict with the provisions of the Regulations regarding the Conferring of PhD degrees at VUB and ULB, nor with the supplementary faculty regulations or provisions in place at the VUB and ULB faculties where the PhD project takes shape.

In the event of conflicting stipulations, the partner institutions will agree on the regulation which takes precedence.

This agreement shall be governed by Belgian law. Any disputes which may not be settled amicably shall be submitted to the competent courts of Brussels.
For the Université libre de Bruxelles
Prof. Dr. Didier VIVIERS, 
Rector

DATE: 26 OCT. 2016
Prof. Dr. Prof. Stefaan Caenepeel
Dean, Faculty of Engineering

Prof. Dr. Touhafi, Abdellah
Supervisor

Date: 9/12/16
Prof. Dr. An Braeken
Co-Supervisor

Date: 9/12/16
Almasri Feras
The doctoral candidate

Date: 11/16/2016

For the Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Prof. Dr. Caroline Pauwels, 
Rector

Date: 18/10/2016
Prof. Dr. Gerard Degrez
Dean, Ecole polytechnique de Bruxelles

Prof. Dr. Debeir Olivier
Supervisor

Date: 4/16/2016
Prof. Dr. Gauthier Lafuitt
Co-Supervisor

Date: 7/17/2016

Joint PhD Agreement - ULB-VUB - 2015-2016