To: Rensselaer Faculty and Staff

From: Charles F. Carletta, J.D., Secretary of the Institute and General Counsel

Subject: US Export Control Regulation CITI Course

While Rensselaer promotes openness in research, communication and inquiry, it is also cognizant that classified projects and any restrictions on publication and foreign nationals are restricted by the United States rules on export control. Sometimes there is a conflict between the tradition of academic freedom and the Export Control Laws that creates an urgent need for individual members of the campus community to protect themselves personally by focusing on these laws and regulations.

The U.S. export control system generally requires export licensing for:

- defense items; or
- items that have both commercial and military applications; or
- exports to sanctioned persons and destinations.

It has always been the strategy of Rensselaer to protect a statutory “fundamental research exclusion” (FRE) permitted by these laws. This is accomplished by negotiating the elimination of all proposed contractual clauses that restrict publication rights or limit access to, or participation of, foreign nationals in sponsored research. In situations where this strategy becomes counter-productive or the underlying research requires such clauses, the terms and processes set forth in the Rensselaer Export Compliance and Management Plan, http://www.rpi.edu/Export_Control_Plan_10112_Final.pdf, will prevail to both help secure the grant while protecting the students and faculty affected.

Rensselaer is committed to promoting the understanding and interpretation of these complex sets of laws. Therefore, my Office is providing new training tools designed to help individuals deal with the Export Control regulations. Faculty required or seeking this training as it relates to research, may access the US Export Control Regulation web-based program on the CITI website. The course contains several modules and initially provides a basic overview of export controls and the regulations as implemented by the following federal agencies: the Department of Commerce’s Export Administration Regulations (EAR), the Department of State’s International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), and the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). To access CITI, log on at http://www.CITIprogram.org, register by creating your own account and password (if you do not have a CITI password), and follow the remaining instructions.

The CITI course can be used to fulfill the export control training for Institute staff, students and/or employees that may be required by certain departments. More in-depth training and education is also available by contacting the Rensselaer Export Control Office at: exportcontrol@rpi.edu.