



King Abdullah University of Science and Technology Announces 2008 Global Research Partnership Awards

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ithaca, NY, April 29, 2008 – King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) today announced grants to four interdisciplinary research centers, including a consortium of investigators at Cornell University, in partnership with KensaGroup LLC, to receive a 2008 Global Research Partnership Award. The \$25 million award, granted over five years, will support the KAUST-Cornell Center for Research and Education, led by co-principal investigators Lynden A. Archer and Emmanuel P. Giannelis. KensaGroup will help Center researchers transform discoveries into viable businesses as start-up companies or as components of larger corporations.

“We chose these first KAUST GRP Centers from an exceptionally competitive pool of proposals, which represented some of the most talented research teams in the world,” said KAUST President-designate Choon Fong Shih. “Following a highly rigorous technical review process, we selected four very top-quality proposals that best complement KAUST’s institutional priorities at this time in its development.” The other recipients include University of Oxford, Stanford University, and Texas A&M University.

KAUST is a new world-class, international graduate-level research university that is currently under development in Saudi Arabia. The campus is dedicated to inspiring a new age of scientific achievement that will also benefit the region and the world. Through its Global Research Partnerships, KAUST provides grant support to university-based, multi-

investigator centers, with industry participation possible. The Partnerships focus on a wide range of research topics having both regional and global significance.

The KAUST-Cornell Center will provide an integrated forum for research, development, education, entrepreneurship and technology innovation, with a particular focus on new technologies for carbon dioxide sequestration, seawater desalination, improved petroleum recovery, and photovoltaic materials for solar energy conversion. Research activities throughout the Center will integrate a strong systems engineering approach, with the goal of channeling fundamental knowledge/innovation developed within the Center to impact several areas of technology

“KensaGroup is pleased to be part of the new KAUST Partnership,” said Dr. Bruce Ganem, co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer of KensaGroup. “As a faculty inventor myself, I understand the substantial barriers to early-stage technology commercialization. Our team looks forward to assisting Center researchers in evaluating and transforming their discoveries into successful products.”

KensaGroup, an Ithaca, NY holding company, builds successful companies around invention, innovation and brands by combining executive level corporate operational experience with deep technical knowledge and prudent financial oversight. Since the Company's inception, KensaGroup has evaluated over 2,000 licensable technologies from universities throughout the United States, and has launched several new, high-growth businesses, including Novomer, Gene Network Sciences, MedHesives, and NovaSterilis. To date KensaGroup startups have raised over \$10 million in Federal small business innovation grants and secured nearly \$12 million in seed-stage and Series A venture capital financing.