



**Advanced Energy Research & Technology Center
(AERTC) Moving Forward**
Board Announces October Groundbreaking Event

STONY BROOK, NY, June 25th, 2007— The Advisory Board of the Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center (AERTC), representing a diverse collaboration of more than 20 institutions, universities and companies, met last Thursday to announce the formation of industrial and academic committees, discuss the operational and research aspects of the new energy center, and announce a ground breaking ceremony set for October, 2007 at Stony Brook University, where the new center will be located.

Energy supply, a cleaner environment, and continued economic development are inextricably linked to the future of New York State and Long Island. Thanks to an enormously successful effort from a State Senate Delegation, which included Senators Kenneth P. LaValle and Dean Skelos, KeySpan CEO Robert B. Catell, and Stony Brook University President, Dr. Shirley Strum Kenny, research institutions such as Brookhaven National Laboratory and Stony Brook University, along with regional suppliers and distributors of energy, KeySpan and LIPA, have joined forces to fulfill an important mission for Long Island and the nation.

“We are in dire need of new energy sources to fulfill the ever-increasing demand for power in New York State and, particularly, Long Island,” said Senator Kenneth P. LaValle. “The Long Island delegation secured \$35 million in state funds for the creation of the Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center in support of new technologies that will lead to the development of plentiful sources of reliable, affordable, and economical energy. It is my hope that the Center's research will unlock the mystery to alternative sources of energy and help reduce our dependence on foreign fuels, create new jobs, and enhance our economic growth.”

“The Center’s mission is to win recognition as a premier engine for multi-disciplinary research and innovation in eco-friendly advanced energy technologies, maximize the efficiency of conventional sources, and accelerate the affordable commercialization of alternative sources,” says Dr. Yacov Shamash, one of the two Vice Chairs chosen to lead the center at Thursday’s Board Meeting.

Also elected to a leadership role is Michael Faltischek, of Ruskin, Moscou, Falthischek, P.C. who, like Shamash will serve as Vice Chairman. The two Co-Chairpersons of this partnership are two of the most prominent members of Long Island’s business landscape, Mr. Robert Catell, Chairman & CEO of KeySpan and Dr. Shirley Strum Kenny, President of Stony

Brook University. "It is an honor and a privilege to Chair the Board of the Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center with such distinguished leaders of the Long Island community," said Robert B. Catell, Chairman & CEO of KeySpan. "With the support of individuals, businesses, government, educational institutions, and private corporations, the Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center will be instrumental in finding innovative ways to meet the challenges of our energy future. The center will be a place where we can develop new energy technologies, get them into the marketplace, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and clean up our environment."

"The establishment of this Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center will strengthen the partnership among the business, government and academic sectors, and attract both public and private funding," added Kenny.

The following five committees were established during the Board Meeting: *Basic Research, Engineering Initiatives, Industrial Relations, Accredited Educational Programs* and *Community Outreach*. The AERTC will be holding an official groundbreaking event in early October. The October event will include a luncheon venue and project displays.

"The establishment of this Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center, will strengthen the partnership among the business, government and academic sectors, and attract both public and private funding," added Dr. Shamash, who is also the Vice President of Economic Development at Stony Brook University.

Contacts:

Stony Brook University, Dr. Yacov Shamash, 631 632 8380
LIPA, Mr. Bert Cunningham, 516 719 9838
KeySpan, Ms. Diana Parisi, 516 545 5052

