

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
GEORGE E. PATAKI, GOVERNOR

Press Office
518-474-8418
<http://www.state.ny.us>

FOR RELEASE:
IMMEDIATE, Wednesday
June 5, 2002

**GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES \$170 MILLION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN SYRACUSE
State, SU and Private Sector Partner in Center of Excellence in Environmental Systems**

Governor George E. Pataki today announced \$37 million in total State support to establish a new \$170 million Center of Excellence in Environmental Systems at Syracuse University, to be located at the Syracuse Research Park. Cutting-edge research will be performed at the Center, which will house state-of-the-art labs and research facilities, as well as new business incubation space for technology-based spin-off companies.

"Our new Center of Excellence in Environmental Systems will attract new companies, generate millions of dollars in new investments and bring new high-paying jobs to Syracuse and Central New York," Governor Pataki said. "Central New York has the academic power and the corporate strength to become a worldwide leader in environmental systems engineering, and this new initiative will place the entire region in the forefront of technology-based job creation and economic growth in the 21st century."

The Center of Excellence is a collaborative venture between the State, private industry, Syracuse University, the Metropolitan Development Association of Central New York, and other academic and research partners. The State will provide \$37 million in total support, consisting of \$22 million included in the new 2002-03 State Budget and \$15 million that was previously announced for SU's STAR Center for Environmental Quality Systems, funded through the New York State Office for Science, Technology and Academic Research (NYSTAR).

Corporate partners have pledged nearly \$100 million in support for the Center, including: \$45 million from Pyramid; \$15 million from Niagara-Mohawk; \$10 million each from McQuay International and the Syracuse Research Corporation; \$6.5 million from Carrier; \$4 million from Welch-Allyn; and \$4.4 million from EMC2. Academic and research partners will provide about \$23 million in support and \$13 million in federal sources have been identified.

Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno said, "With Gen*NY*sis and Centers of Excellence we are going to make New York State a leader in economic growth in the areas of biotechnology and high technology. By partnering with Governor Pataki, we enacted a new budget that includes an historic capital investment in new high tech and biotech facilities that will lead to groundbreaking research and new businesses and jobs throughout the state."

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver said, "This center adheres to the Assembly philosophy that if we tap into the strengths of our state's economies great things will happen. The R & D brain trust available through SU provides a ready basis for high-tech initiatives by this center, that will spur business and commercial opportunities and create the good jobs we need to brighten the future of working families of this region."

Senator Nancy Lorraine Hoffmann said, "The Center of Excellence in Environmental Systems at Syracuse University will take advantage of the assets of Central New York, including the numerous

academic institutions and private industry to attract new businesses and jobs to the Syracuse area. This project together with the other Gen*NY*sis projects across the state will put New York in the forefront of biotechnology. Syracuse is where air conditioning was born at Carrier and it will be the leader in Environmental Systems thanks to the efforts of Governor Pataki."

Senator John DeFrancisco said, "While budget negotiations were very difficult this year, in the end we were able to make prudent decisions that will be good for our economy. I applaud Governor Pataki for helping to make a Gen*NY*sis Center of Excellence at Syracuse University a reality. Now that State funds are in place, we can look forward to additional job creation and new economic opportunities for our community."

Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli said, "Central New York is home to world-class universities and high-tech companies - we need to capitalize on the economic opportunities they present us. As Chair of the Assembly's Task Force of University-Industry Cooperation, I know the importance of investing in programs such as the Centers of Excellence. They will help us utilize our regional strengths to build a strong high-tech economy and provide good-paying jobs for working families."

Assemblyman William Sanford said, "Governor Pataki is once again leading the way in creating upstate jobs through advanced research centers that will help contribute to the economic revitalization of Central New York. I hope that this Center of Excellence will strengthen Central New York's reputation as an attractive location for high-tech and bio-tech businesses and jobs."

Assemblyman Harold C. "Hal" Brown, Jr. said, "I applaud the Governor for his commitment to the upstate economy, especially right here in Syracuse. These new jobs will allow individuals to comfortably support and raise their families, and will strengthen the region's economic future for generations to come."

U.S. Representative James T. Walsh said, "I'm pleased that Governor Pataki and State of New York officials have chosen to support our local efforts by awarding a Center of Excellence designation here in Syracuse. When I helped launch the New York Indoor Air Quality Center two years ago, I did so understanding the need to unite local indoor air quality business interests and research institutions under one roof. The Governor's support will help these efforts and allow Central New York to become the world's leader in indoor environmental systems research and development."

Onondaga County Executive Nick Pirro said, "The SU Center of Excellence will serve to energize local environmental engineering research. This collaboration between government, business, and education will stimulate significant job growth and economic activity. We are grateful for Governor Pataki's work and for the astute investment of the corporate community."

Todd Bluedorn, President, Carrier North America Commercial Operations said, "One hundred years ago this summer, Dr. Willis Carrier invented modern air conditioning, a technology breakthrough that revolutionized the world in which we live and work. The creation of the new Center of Excellence will spur the same kind of innovation by bringing together the intellectual capital and business acumen needed to solve the environmental challenges of the twenty-first century. Carrier Corporation applauds Governor Pataki for his visionary leadership."

William E. Davis, Chairman of National Grid USA, Niagara Mohawk's parent company, said, "Niagara Mohawk is proud to be a part of this important initiative. With the commitment announced today by Governor Pataki, we are well on our way to making Central New York internationally known as the one-stop solution for leading-edge indoor environmental products, services and expertise."

Syracuse University Chancellor Kenneth A. Shaw said, "By establishing this Center, Governor Pataki has shown a substantive commitment to economic development. It is substantive because it draws on the intellectual resources of institutions of higher education in this region, and because it also builds on the obvious strengths that businesses in upstate New York have in the area of environmental systems. By this action, the state is showing it is in the economic development business for the long haul. We thank the Governor for his vision and leadership in creating the

Center's of Excellence."

H. Douglas Barclay, President of the Metropolitan Development Association (MDA) of Central New York said, "This Center will be the foundation for us to capitalize on the unique strengths of the environmental cluster for which Central New York is globally competitive, and we applaud Governor Pataki for his vote of confidence in Central New York. The MDA - representing Central New York business leadership and in partnership with Syracuse University, New York State and the federal government - accepts the Governor's challenge to turn the Center's research and development into jobs and investment for our region and state."

Charles A. Gargano, Chairman of Empire State Development, which will administer the \$22 million in State support included in the new State Budget said, "Thanks to Governor Pataki's leadership our State is at the forefront of high-tech advancements and investments - the February 2002 issue of Business Facilities magazine ranked New York fourth in the nation for high-tech growth, our strongest ranking ever. Today's announcement is one more step in the Governor's ongoing commitment to create new jobs and opportunities for the residents of Central New York."

Russell W. Bessette, M.D., Executive Director of NYSTAR, said, "The Center of Excellence will enable the Syracuse region to claim a leadership role in developing the critically important environmental science technologies of the future. The Governor has led the way in this field when he announced last year the creation of the STAR Center for Environmental Quality Systems. Because we spend so much of our time indoors, the value of this research in terms of human health and productivity is clear. In view of our need for heightened security, the development of technologies that will lead to smart buildings and sensors to detect harmful chemical and biological agents makes this Center of Excellence especially valuable, not only to New York State, but to the United States."

Corporate partners in the effort include Pyramid, Niagara Mohawk, Carrier, McQuay International, Welch-Allyn, EMC2, Syracuse Research Corporation, HealthWay Products, the New York Indoor Environmental Quality Center and others. Academic and research partners include Alfred University, Clarkson University, Cornell University, RPI, SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry, SUNY Upstate Medical Center, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Albany, the Upstate Freshwater Institute, and the Institute of Ecosystem Studies.

The Center will focus research efforts on indoor environments in the areas of indoor air quality, comfort, lighting, acoustics and intelligent controls. The Center will have a special focus on creating "immune building zones" to protect citizens in the event of a biological or chemical weapons attack. The Center will also do significant research on urban ecosystems relating to renewable resources, water resource management, waste management, sustainable development and ambient air quality. The Center has begun work with Pace University in Manhattan to test innovative air purification systems to provide safe indoor air environments in the aftermath of 9/11.

The Center will contain a state-of-the-art Total Indoor Environmental Quality Lab that will allow researchers to simulate virtually all indoor environmental conditions relating to thermal comfort, air quality, lighting and acoustic quality, to evaluate the impact of external forces such as temperature, humidity, wind, ambient light and noise, simulate the interaction between an individual and the indoor environment, and to simulate the emergency operation of "immune building zones" under chemical and biological attacks.

The Center will also house business incubation space for spin-off companies and office space for researchers and the New York Indoor Environmental Quality Center. State funding will also provide for upgrades to existing Syracuse labs, and equipment for the Center and for participating university partners.

The Syracuse Center is one of five Centers of Excellence announced statewide focusing on critical emerging high-tech fields, including the Albany Center of Excellence in Nanoelectronics, the Rochester Center of Excellence in Photonics, the Buffalo Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and

the Long Island Center of Excellence in Wireless Internet and Information Technology. Nearly \$600 million in private sector and federal support have already been committed statewide to the Centers of Excellence.

###