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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Three NYS small businesses awarded Cornell JumpStart projects for Spring 2008

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Ithaca, NY, Jan. 31, 2008 –

New York small businesses MTI Micro Fuel Cells of Albany, Elia Life Technologies of New York City, and Optimax Systems of Rochester have been selected to receive JumpStart awards with the Cornell Center for Materials Research (CCMR) for the spring 2008 semester. Additionally, FiberShield LLC has been selected by the College of Staten Island, Center for Engineered Polymeric Materials, to receive a JumpStart award via their NYSTAR College Applied Research and Technology (CART) Center.

“We are pleased and excited about the new projects getting underway this semester which promise to provide excellent real-world experience for the students, and enable faculty members to actively and effectively help small businesses grow and prosper,” said David Jung, CCMR Industrial Programs Manager.

The CCMR Jumpstart program is funded by the New York State Foundation for Science, Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR) to assist small New York businesses develop and improve their products through university collaborations, leading to revenue growth and new jobs. JumpStart projects receive up to \$5000 in matching funds for project costs including faculty and their research staff, facilities services, supplies, and materials. Twenty-two companies have benefited since 2005.

For the Cornell-based projects, MTI Micro Fuel Cells, will work with Prof. Emmanuel Giannelis, Materials Science and Engineering, to develop new inorganic-organic composite materials for use in MTI’s novel fuel cell devices. Elia Life Technologies, New York, NY will engage with Prof. Hod Lipson, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, to explore improved methods for printing characters of the ELIA® Tactile Alphabet that are more easily read by the visually-impaired. Optimax Systems, Ontario, NY will collaborate with Prof. Brian Kirby, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, to examine how material properties affect the polishing of optical surfaces.

The project to be carried out by the Center for Engineered Polymeric Material (CEPM) of the College of Staten Island, will match Professor Nan-Loh Yang with FiberShield, Ithaca, NY, to explore and develop biodegradable polymer fibers for a novel crop protection system.

Further details about this exciting program including how to apply for projects for the next semester are given at the CCMR website (<http://www.ccmr.cornell.edu/industry/>). Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis beginning in February.

About NYSTAR

The New York State Foundation for Science, Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR) is a public-benefit corporation that supports collaborative industry/academic partnerships to foster integrated approaches for developing and commercializing innovative technologies.

About the Cornell Center for Materials Research (CCMR)

CCMR is a National Science Foundation and New York State funded interdisciplinary center at Cornell University whose mission is to advance, explore and exploit the forefront of the science and engineering of advanced materials with an aim to be world leaders in the design, control and understanding of the behavior of both crystalline and disordered nano-materials. This objective is pursued through fundamental experimental and theoretical studies of the assembly and processing of nano-materials and of their resulting behavior, educational outreach, and collaborations with industry.

About CEPM

The Center for Engineered Polymeric Materials (CEPM) is a NYSTAR-sponsored CART Center that is chartered by NYS to perform outreach and promote networking in NYS industry to foster job and revenue growth. The Center actively engages in projects related to polymer synthesis, material selection, characterization, end use demonstration, application testing and processing. The Center has particular expertise in polymer nanotechnology. CEPM will provide cost sharing funds for promising projects.