

PRESS RELEASE - STCU 17th GBM & 10th ANNIVERSARY

STCU 17th GBM Joint Statement

4th December 2003, Kyiv, Ukraine

The Seventeenth Meeting of the Governing Board of the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU) convened on 4th December 2003 in Kyiv, Ukraine, approving 29 regular projects (including continuations) for a total of US\$3,005,456 + Euro 795,530. This included the introduction of 10 new Partners to the STCU since the June 2003 STCU Board of Governors meeting.

12 new Partner projects activities were approved since the June Governing Board Meeting for a total of US\$2,701,797 and 6 Partner Project extensions were also confirmed for a total of US\$279,388 + Euro 15,000.

The 17th Meeting of the STCU Governing Board, and their approval of the above mentioned sums now brings the total approved funding investments to a total of over US\$100 million over the last ten years.

The STCU proudly works with our partners in Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science, and the National Academy of Science, which have been instrumental in helping aid Ukrainian weapons scientists and engineers.

The Governing Board is pleased with the activities in Uzbekistan, Georgia and more recently Azerbaijan; who recently acceded over the past year, and is also pleased with the progress to date in advancing the interest of Moldova in entering into an agreement with the STCU to become a member state.

The STCU Office in Baku, Azerbaijan is currently under construction in readiness for its opening in the New Year

The STCU is an intergovernmental, non-profit organization created with the goal of aiding unemployed or underemployed scientists previously working on the development of weapons of mass destruction. It was created and is governed by the “Agreement to Establish a Science and Technology Center in Ukraine”, originally signed by Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the United States. Subsequently, Sweden was replaced by the European Union.

Azerbaijan, Georgia and Uzbekistan have also become signatories to the agreement.

The STCU finances projects, which convert the military know-how of the scientists of the recipient states into peaceful civilian applications.

Other than the government funded projects, the STCU also works in a number of other spheres of activity: Matchmaking; Promotional Missions, Seminars and workshops; Partnership Projects; Travel Grants; and Patent Support.

The STCU Governing Board meets on a semi-annual basis in order to determine the Center's policies and funding for scientific projects. The STCU Secretariat, located in Kyiv, Ukraine, is the main body responsible for fulfilling STCU decisions and policies on a daily basis.

Earlier in the year on Monday 16th June 2003 the Science & Technology Ukraine of Ukraine (STCU) had an official ribbon cutting and opening ceremony for their new offices located at 21 Kamenyariv Street. The new building offered by the Ukrainian Government is a larger building to the previous premises located at 3 Laboratornyj Provulok and offers more space for expansion of the Centre and its activities.

Executive Director Yves Carmel held the ribbon cutting ceremony at the STCU premises along with invited dignitaries and representatives from the Government of Ukraine, the Ministry of Science and Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassadors of Foreign Embassies in Ukraine and Head of the STCU Board and Members of the Board.

This year also marks the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the STCU.

In order to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of its founding the STCU will be holding a reception after the Governing Board Meeting which will mark the occasion not only for 10 years of working but also its investment of US\$100 million into the scientific and technological capabilities of Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Uzbekistan.

Among the dignitaries attending the ceremony shall be various ministers from the Ukrainian government, as well as members of the diplomatic, scientific and business communities from both Ukraine and abroad.