

DHAHRAN TECHNO-VALLEY

KING FAHD UNIVERSITY OF PETROLEUM AND MINERALS



The Dhahran Technology-Valley (DTV) is a major undertaking that is initiated by King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals (KFUPM) during the year 2006. It is envisioned to be Middle East's most prestigious, industrial research and development (R&D) and technology nucleus. The valley also provides development, production, and marketing support services for innovation that originates from academic research, but under business environment. It is being set up to provide infrastructure for industrial R&D to flourish in the Kingdom. It will mainly consist of six entities, namely:

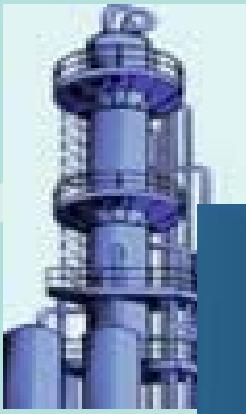
1. King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Science Park (KASP)
2. Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Science and Technology Center (SciTech)
3. Innovation Center
4. Technical and Business Incubator
5. Liaison Office
6. Consultancy Services Center (CSC)

Mission of DTV is to provide total business environments that inspire people to excel and make available a focal point for industrial R&D and technical innovation in the Kingdom and the region in general. It is designed similar to the leading international facilities at Singapore, Hong Kong, Cambridge, Oxford, Aston, Warwick, Sheffield, Aberdeen, New York, North Carolina and Silicon Valley.



Flourishing landscaped surroundings will create the ideal ambience and environment where innovations transform into successful business ventures. It is expected that value-added services plus recreational activities will add to the vibrancy and networking amongst tenants in the valley community. Simply, it could be said that DTV has *"a local mission with a global vision"*.

Major corporations such as Schlumberger, USA, Intel Corp., USA, CIBA Specially Chemical Switzerland, and JCCP, Japan presently share such mutually beneficial relationships with DTV. Academia support from KFUPM will serve as a catalyst in this R&D bee hive. Other leading technological and scientific institutions in the area can also be fully utilized.



Objectives of Dhahran Techno-Valley



- Commercialization of research, both in terms of focusing the university's endeavors towards commercially feasible areas of study as well as minimizing the transition period between technological innovation and its commercial deployment.
- Presenting the Kingdom to the international community as a significant player in high-end research and innovation programs.
- Providing a strong point of presence for major international companies and enterprises; thereby channeling world-class technology and practice into local and regional businesses.
- Providing incubator programs to promote emerging small-businesses and enterprises with the much-needed technical, financial and administrative support.
- Utilizing the industrial presence for the benefit of students, thereby providing significant real-world exposure.
- Generating employment opportunities for students during their course of study and upon graduation, and thus contributing to these business enterprises.

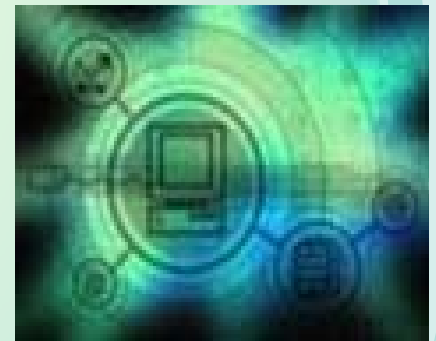


Expected Role of Commercial Companies at DTV

The role of the valley should go beyond that of day-to-day operation of the companies, in terms of strategic issues dealing with oil production, economics, energy water and environment, and most importantly address technical and socio-economic problems of our societies. One can cite examples of giant companies like, Microsoft, Intel, GM, General Electric, Shell Oil Companies which are dealing not only with their core businesses, but are also spending a significant amount of R&D money in the areas not directly relevant to their main activities. For example, these companies are extensively spending R&D resources for areas such as education, health care, energy and environment, etc.

We in the Kingdom need to further move from consumer-oriented society to the society that care more towards Quality Education and R&D culture to tackle issues related to Water, Energy and Environment. We have to encourage local small-scale industry to be more competitive in an international competitive environment especially after becoming a member in WTO. A sense of responsibility needs to be created in our future generation to develop professionally to meet the emerging challenges of our society.

R&D spending is essential for the development of new innovative technologies, which in turn leads to greater productivity and economic success. Looking at the current situation and level of R&D support can give an accurate assessment on the expected future outcomes. Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries spend on average about 2.0% of their GDP on R&D. The developed countries spend much more. For example, Korea spends 2.7%, the US spends 2.9% and Japan 3.5% of their GDP on R&D activities. This is in sharp contrast with the R&D expenditure in the Arab countries which ranges from 0.05 to 0.40% of their GDP.



Major national companies have a pivotal role to play in order to meet the forthcoming challenges of our societal issues dealing with both technological and socio-economic problems. It is pleasing to realize the awareness and willingness of the leaders of these companies toward supporting R&D activities in the Kingdom.

This awareness and support; which is sometimes vividly expressed in the strategic plans of these companies; is the driving force that would help DTV reaches its objectives and impact on the national economy. KFUPM is also committed to fulfilling its duties. Fostering a strategic alliance with the industry is a prerequisite for this endeavor. DTV is a major challenge that the university has undertaken. We are confident that our leaders in the industrial sector are in agreement with us on this issue. Together we can move forward in developing a science and technology base society. Together we can be more effective and successful in shaping our future.



Potential Benefits For Major Companies To Join DTV

- Availability of additional R&D laboratory and office space for expansion of R&D activities not covered in existing company facilities.
- Direct the research activities to what is critical and important to the national interests. This can be done through (a) selecting the tenants of the valley who are more relevant to the nation, (b) streamlining faculty and graduate students research activities and interest to strategic areas, and (c) sponsoring new research areas and establish such capabilities in the university and/or motivate faculty to work in such areas.
- Utilize the available DTV avenues (innovation center and incubator) to realize potentially useful ideas to actual practice.
- Opportunity to have staff members of various companies at DTV to interact with the other related or non-related industry personnel, such as energy and environment companies, oil exploration companies, oil-industry consultants, petroleum refining service companies, economists, and the university researchers, etc.
- Opportunity for company employees with new and novel ideas to begin to explore in a totally different environment that combines business with academia, independent of the typical company activities, but with some official involvement in the form of equity in the DTV business venture. This can lead to a diversification of the company's business scope, into related fields, without diverting or diluting normal business activities, and does not force new ideas to compete directly with existing company priorities for normal business operations.
- Opportunity to come into direct contact with, and to evaluate, students who are potential new company employees after graduating from KFUPM, who can be interns and part-time employees at the DTV prior to graduation.
- Convenience for company employees at the DTV to attend graduate classes related to their employment duties, and in some cases, for senior company employees to offer graduate classes as Adjunct Faculty Members.





Why DTV is GCC's Top Technology Hot Spot?



Institutions that Collaborate:

Schlumberger, Intel, KFUPM and many others all work together to solve problems and bring new business opportunities.

Brainpower at Work:

The Dhahran's highest concentration of scientists, engineers and Ph.Ds are ready to turn scientific knowledge into technological solutions for emerging engineering and scientific problems.

World-Class Innovation:

A regional leader in research, innovation and scientific application in petroleum refining, manufacturing, aerospace, energy, environment, and so much more.

Technology-Driven Talent:

An educated, motivated and available workforce that is attracted from all over the world.

National Leadership through Regional Cooperation:

Smart, savvy national leaders; teamed with pro-business local and state governments are working together to attract and deploy millions in research funds to meet national needs and advance regional success.

Lower Business Costs:

A right-to-work region with one of the lowest cost; affordable utilities designed with technological support system to help business turn a profit, succeed and expand.

Putting Ideas to Work:

A place where entrepreneurs can turn ideas into products with the help and support of regional technology transfer, business incubation and venture capital support.

Affordable Family Living:

Lower housing costs, competitive schools; all with the same great amenities and opportunities as other top technology spots in Asia and China.

Location:

Check out the Dhahran Technology Valley; a technology-rich oasis in the heart of Eastern Province fastest-growing business region; close to all of the GCC markets and brainpower needed for tomorrow's business success.



Dhahran Techno-Valley

For additional information to participate and contribute in the development of DTV please contact:

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