ST Kinetics & Republic Polytechnic jointly launches $3 million Advanced Composite Engineering Lab

**Singapore, 10 April 2012** – ST Kinetics and Singapore’s Republic Polytechnic (RP) today launched the Advanced Composite Engineering Lab (ACEL), a laboratory specialising in composite material science research and production, and possibly a first in Southeast Asia specialising in natural fibre studies.

Kick-started by a S$3m investment from ST Kinetics, ACEL will house specially customised equipment and facilities for the advancement of composite material research. Located in RP, ACEL will be dedicated to the research and production of composite materials that incorporate natural fibre, such as silk, as a component material.

ACEL’s opening will have both RP and ST Kinetics’ researchers working together to research and develop novel composite fabrics for high performance applications in the aerospace, marine, automobile, textiles and sports industries. The outcome of the research pioneered at ACEL would find its way into a wide range of industrial applications. Key materials in the research include silkworm silk, naturally-harvested and regenerated spider silk, and even Graphene, a material that is currently under intense global research.

Under the guidance of experienced researchers from the industry, RP students will be involved in the hands-on development of cutting edge technologies that facilitate the fabrication and production of composite materials. They will also benefit from an internship of at least six months with ST Kinetics, providing them with opportunities to learn from the industry.

During the launch, ST Kinetics also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with A*STAR’s Institute of Materials Research and Engineering. The MOU formalises both parties’ intent to undertake research and development collaboration activities in the area of Functional Silk Technology, an innovation from A*STAR that can enhance the functional properties of the silk from silkworms, one of the key materials in the research conducted at ACEL.
“The Advanced Composite Engineering Lab breaks new ground for the research and production of advanced composite materials in Singapore. The collaboration with ST Kinetics is an exciting opportunity for Republic Polytechnic to play a role in enhancing innovation and developing new technologies, as well as allow our final year students the opportunity to create composite material products needed in today’s market. This launch is particularly significant as we celebrate our 10th Anniversary in 2012.”

YEOLi Pheow, Principal / CEO, Republic Polytechnic

“ST Kinetics is proud to collaborate with Republic Polytechnic in the development of the Advanced Composite Engineering Laboratory. The launch of ACEL today marks our commitment to develop advanced materials to continually build innovative products and solutions for our customers worldwide.”

SEW Chee Jhuen, President, ST Kinetics

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About Republic Polytechnic
The first educational institution in Singapore to leverage Problem-based Learning approach for all its diploma programmes, Republic Polytechnic (RP) has six schools and two centres offering thirty nine courses in Infocomm, Engineering, Applied Science, Technology for the Arts, Sports, Health & Leisure, Events and Hospitality, Enterprise, and Communication. Republic Polytechnic is committed to nurturing innovation and entrepreneurial learning in an environment that develops problem-solving process skills and life-long learning opportunities. Its holistic, broad-based curriculum, covering culture, enterprise development and cognitive processes, prepares students for an active and meaningful role in society. Republic Polytechnic strives for excellence by achieving various international and national accreditations, including ISO9001, ISO14001, OHSAS 18001, SS540, Singapore Quality Class, People Developer, Innovation Class, and Service Class. For more information, visit http://www.rp.edu.sg.

About ST Kinetics
ST Kinetics (Singapore Technologies Kinetics Ltd) is the land systems and specialty vehicles arm of ST Engineering. It delivers integrated land systems, specialty vehicles and their related through life support for defence, homeland security and commercial applications. Please visit www.stengg.com.
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