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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Iowa Corn Promotion Board and New Jersey Institute of Technology to License Breakthrough Safe Bio-Plastic Alternative**

JOHNSTON, Iowa – August 6, 2008 The Iowa Corn Promotion Board (ICPB), New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) along with the University of Sao Paulo (USP) today announced a joint agreement for licensing four pending patents on a safe, building block chemical derived from corn known as isosorbide to chemists. The agreement marks a major step forward in developing applications and markets for corn-based chemistry.

“This agreement gives us the exclusive right to work with companies interested in sub-licensing this technology to incorporate isosorbide into many products,” said Rodney Williamson, ICPB Director of Research and Development. “Corn-based isosorbide can replace bisphenol A in baby bottles, infant toys and other products used by children. Exposure to bisphenol A has been linked to health problems and we feel confident that this is a safe alternative.”

The agreement includes proprietary patent pending technologies to use corn derived isosorbide as a plasticizer, UV-absorbing product, and epoxy coating similar to the lining in soup cans.

Donald H. Sebastian, PhD, senior vice president for research and development at NJIT, hailed the agreement as an innovative approach to developing new biomaterials. “We are providing a renewable material for the polymer industry that will benefit the environment and reduce US consumption of expensive imported petroleum,” said Sebastian.

“I am happy to see this important project move forward,” said Michael Jaffe, PhD, research professor, department of chemical engineering at NJIT. “Today petroleum products are used extensively to manufacture plastics, but this research has opened the way for us to substitute corn-derived isosorbide for the petroleum based feedstock thus creating many potential opportunities as we move forward.”

The agreement offers NJIT a chance to strengthen its commitment to developing new uses for corn. NJIT’s research has been presented at several academic and industry forum recently, including the National Academy of Engineering, Winter 2007, the Corn Utilization Technology Conference, 2008, Iowa, the Society of Plastics Engineers’ 2008 Global Polymer Environmental Conference, and the American Chemical Society’s 2007 Green Chemistry Conference.

Since 2004, NJIT has received more than \$1.5 million in research funding for this project from ICPB, US Department of Energy and US Department of Agriculture. Luiz H. Catalani, PhD, a professor in the department of chemistry at the University of Sao Paulo, was a member of the research team during his sabbatical year at NJIT.

The next step toward commercializing isosorbide use is to survey companies interested in licensing the technology, said Williamson. “We can envision ways that might work, and we look forward to discussing how to tailor the ICPB/NJIT isosorbide program to meet the needs of potential partners.”

For more information about isosorbide and licensing opportunities, please visit [www.iowacorn.org](http://www.iowacorn.org) or contact Williamson at [rwilliamson@iowacorn.org](mailto:rwilliamson@iowacorn.org), 515-225-9242.

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**Iowa Corn Promotion Board (ICPB)** works to increase education, fund research, and improve marketability for corn and products made from corn. The Research and Business Development Department seeks partners to implement new technology, analyze grower investment/market opportunities, and promote commercialized products.

**NJIT**, New Jersey's science and technology university, at the edge in knowledge, enrolls more than 8,000 students in bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in 92 degree programs offered by six colleges: Newark College of Engineering, New Jersey School of Architecture, College of Science and Liberal Arts, School of Management, Albert Dorman Honors College and College of Computing Sciences. NJIT is renowned for expertise in architecture, applied mathematics, wireless communications and networking, solar physics, advanced engineered particulate materials, nanotechnology, neural engineering and e-learning. In 2006, Princeton Review named NJIT among the nation's top 25 campuses for technology and top 150 for best value. U.S. News & World Report's 2007 Annual Guide to America's Best Colleges ranked NJIT in the top tier of national research universities.

**USP**, the University of São Paulo, is a public and the largest higher education and research institution in Brasil. Is the 1<sup>st</sup> place in Brasil and the 97<sup>st</sup> place in the world ranking of the best Universities, enrolls more than 80.000 students in bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in all knowledge areas involving more than 5.300 faculties that produced, in 2007, more than 26.000 papers, more than 5.000 of them in international indexed publications.