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Title--October launch for center to study energy

Ground-breaking for a planned Advanced Energy Research & Technology Center, to be located in a research park at Stony Brook University, is scheduled for October, officials announced at a meeting of the group's advisory board last week.

The center, launched with \$35million in state funds secured by State Sens. Kenneth LaValle (R-Port Jefferson) and Dean Skelos (R-Rockville Centre), will work to develop next-generation energy technologies.

"It is my hope that the center's research will unlock the mystery to alternative sources of energy and help reduce our dependence on foreign fuels, create new jobs and enhance our economic growth," LaValle said in a statement.

Leadership of the group includes Yacov Shamash, vice president of economic development at the university, and attorney Michael Faltischek of Ruskin, Moscou, & Faltischek in Uniondale. Both will serve as vice chairmen.

Robert Catell, chief executive of KeySpan Corp., and Shirley Strum Kenny, the university's president, will serve as co-chairpersons.

Kenny said the center will "strengthen the partnership among the business, government and academic sectors, and attract both public and private funding."

Among nearly two dozen regional entities participating in the center are the Long Island Power Authority and Brookhaven National Laboratory.