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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Materia and QAPCO sign MoU to study the development of the next generation of materials by focusing on R&D**

**PASADENA, California and DOHA, Qatar** - As Qatar continues to grow its energy and industrial sectors, and attempts to further optimize its hydrocarbon resources utilization, research and innovation are set to propel the future success of these sectors.

Research might allow the development of new products using Qatar's existing feedstock and natural resources and open the door to new uses for energy products and derivatives such as petrochemicals.

To further this goal, Materia Inc (Materia) and Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO) forged a partnership, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to further reinforce their R&D collaborative efforts, and to study the development of the next generation of materials produced from Qatar's existing feedstock.

Materia's expertise and catalyst breakthrough technology combined with QAPCO resources could potentially lead to the development of new products. Indeed, Materia specializes in efficient feedstock utilization and the extraction of specific petrochemical and chemical compounds thanks to its unique and innovative technology.

Together, they will explore the possibilities to further optimize the use of Qatar's natural resources, by studying how to extract new products from current feedstock, with the aim to maximize the value related to existing processes.

Sustainability oriented research is part of QAPCO's commitment to improve both the impact of its processes, by focusing on the optimum use of feedstock, and of its products, by generating new applications.

Through collaboration with local and international partnerships, QAPCO's research and development team is digging deep into the potential applications for its petrochemical products now and into the future.

Dr. Mohammed Yousef Al Mulla, Vice Chairman and CEO of QAPCO stated "Joint industry-academia R&D, such as our collaboration with Materia and TAMUQ, is very promising and paves the way to infinite possibilities while supporting the growth of Qatar's knowledge based economy. Collaborating with some of the world's leading experts on research projects focusing on olefins, polymers and petrochemicals has the potential to add further value to our feedstock, which could be strongly beneficial for QAPCO and ultimately for the hydrocarbon resources of the State."

"It is exciting to be part of a collaboration involving Materia, Texas A&M University at Qatar and QAPCO to develop the next generation of materials and products from Qatar based feedstocks. This program will allow fundamental discoveries to be rapidly converted into new commercial products," stated Professor Robert H. Grubbs, Nobel Laureate and Victor and Elizabeth Atkins Professor of Chemistry at the California Institute of Technology.

Dr. Michael A. Giardello, Materia's President, CEO & CTO stated "This envisioned collaboration should enable QAPCO to extract greater value from some of its by-product streams, therefore unlocking greater value from Qatar's natural resources thanks to Materia's unique and most advanced technologies."

QAPCO uses focused partnerships with Qatar's most prominent universities such as TAMUQ, as the launching point for its research activities. Most recently, QAPCO supported the establishment of an endowed chair position at Texas A&M University at Qatar for Nobel Prize winning chemist Dr. Robert Grubbs.

## **About Materia**

Materia was founded in 1998 to commercialize the olefin metathesis technology developed by Professor Robert H. Grubbs of the California Institute of Technology. This novel and enabling catalyst technology enables chemical compounds to be synthesized with greater efficiency, under less stringent reaction conditions, and with reduced by-products and hazardous waste. Metathesis has been accepted as an emerging “green technology” platform and has been broadly adopted by the pharmaceutical, chemical, and polymer industries. As stated by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences when awarding the 2005 Nobel Prize, “metathesis is an example of how important basic science has been applied for the benefit of man, society, and the environment.” For more information, visit: [www.materia-inc.com](http://www.materia-inc.com).

## **About QAPCO**

QAPCO was established in 1974 and is a joint venture between Industries Qatar (80%) and Total Petrochemicals (20%). QAPCO is one of the largest producers of low density polyethylene (LDPE) in the region.

QAPCO is involved in a number of joint ventures that include QATOFIN, QVC, and QPPC, thereby producing various petrochemical products, making QAPCO a regional petrochemical powerhouse. For more information, visit: <http://www.qapco.com.qa>.

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**For more information about this press release,**

**Visit [www.qapco.com.qa](http://www.qapco.com.qa)**

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There are a number of factors that could affect the realization of these future extrapolations statements such as: (a) price fluctuations in crude oil and natural gas, (b) changes in demand or market conditions for the products, (c) loss of market share and industry competition, (d) environmental risks and natural disasters, (e) changes in legislative, fiscal and regulatory conditions, (f) changes in economic and financial market conditions and (g) political risks. As such, results could differ substantially from those stated, or as may be inferred from the forward-looking statements contained herein. All forward-looking statements contained in this presentation are made as of the date of this presentation, as marked on the Cover page.

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#### **GENERAL NOTES**

Qatar Petrochemical Company's accounting year follows the calendar year. Where applicable, all values refer to Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO) Q.S.C. expressed in QR billions and percentages have been rounded to 1 decimal point. All other values have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Values expressed in US \$'s have been converted at the rate of US \$1 = QR3.65.

#### **ABOUT QAPCO**

QAPCO has grown to be recognized as one of the largest producers of low density polyethylene (LDPE) in the Middle East. The company produces a wide range of LDPE grades suitable to all thermoplastics processing techniques with various applications, such as packaging films, agricultural films, extrusion and coating lamination films, high-clarity films, injection molding, cables, wires, foam and other products that are widely used all over the world and touching everyone's daily life.

QAPCO was established in 1974 as a joint multinational venture to utilize the associated and non-associated ethane gases from petroleum production in line with the industrialization plan of the State of Qatar.

QAPCO is jointly owned by Industries Qatar (IQ) with 80% share and Total Petrochemicals France with 20% share.

#### **Plants and Products**

Located in Mesaieed Industrial City, QAPCO's manufacturing facilities consist of an 800 KTPA (kilo-ton per annum) ethylene plant, a 70 KTPA sulfur processing plant, and two LDPE plants with a combined capacity of 400 KTPA, In 2012, QAPCO's third LDPE plant was inaugurated and adds an extra capacity of 300 KTPA of LDPE, raising the company's total LDPE capacity to 700 KTPA and making QAPCO one of the largest producers of LDPE in the Middle East.

In addition, QAPCO has self-sufficient utilities plants and other offsite and auxiliary facilities such as those for the production and supply of raw pyrolysis gasoline for SEEF Ltd. and for the manufacture of linear alkyl benzene.

QAPCO also has facilities to process the C4+ stream from Q-Chem to convert it into high-value LPG, which is then supplied to QP.

#### **Projects and Ventures**

In a quest to integrate and expand its downstream industrial base and diversify its income resources, QAPCO is currently involved in a number of joint ventures that includes QVC, QATOFIN, QPPC, and RLOC, making it a regional petrochemical powerhouse.

In addition, in February 2012, QP and QAPCO signed a Heads of Agreement (HOA) for the development of a new, mega-petrochemical complex in Ras Laffan Industrial City.

The complex includes a world-scale steam cracker, with the feedstock coming from natural gas plants in Ras Laffan. The project is scheduled for completion in 2018. It is an important milestone in the industrial development of the State of Qatar, especially for the integration of its petrochemical industry.

Qatar Petroleum has an 80% equity interest in the project, with QAPCO taking up the remaining 20% stake. QP and QAPCO will jointly develop the petrochemical complex.

The plant will produce ethylene, high-density polyethylene (HDPE), linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE), polypropylene and butadiene.