

*For Release*  
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## **RECYCLING WASTES INTO HIGH QUALITY BUILDING MATERIALS**

The conversion of municipal and construction wastes into high quality building materials will be commercialized under a joint project between the Millennium Environmental Technology Ltd (MET) and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST).

The three-year environmental research project is made possible with a generous contribution from MET, a Hong Kong based environmental technology company. Mr Matthew Tsui, Project Manager of MET, presented to the University today (16 December 1999) the first installment of \$1 million grant, with a commitment of a further \$6.5 million over the next three years.

“HKUST was chosen to take on this task because its faculty expertise and state-of-the-art facilities complement our plan to apply this technology on a large scale in Hong Kong,” said Mr Tsui.

“Turning municipal wastes into construction materials is innovative in that waste-sorting is not needed, making recycling a very economical process,” explained Mr Tsui. “Moreover, energy consumption during production is low since the building materials do not need to be heated, and the liquid wastes generated are incorporated into the manufacturing process,” he said.

The project will be undertaken at HKUST’s Chemical Engineering Department under the direction of Associate Professor, Dr John Barford. “As the only chemical engineering department in Hong Kong, we are very pleased to be able to develop and apply technology relevant to the environmental needs of Hong Kong,” Dr Barford said.

The project will also seek matching funds from the Government’s Innovation and Technology Fund.

### Note to Editors:

This release and photo of sample products can be downloaded at:  
[http://www.ust.hk/~webopa/news/1999\\_News/news1216.html](http://www.ust.hk/~webopa/news/1999_News/news1216.html).

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