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Welcome to
**King Abdullah University of
Science and Technology**

KAUST
2025

About **KAUST**



- Founded in 2009 and located on the eastern shores of the Red Sea, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) is officially recognized as the most acclaimed postgraduate research university in the Middle East.
- During its first 16 years, KAUST has established itself as the most collaborative and innovative university in Saudi Arabia.





in the Arab World

2023 | 2024 | 2025

KAUST has been named the top university in the Arab world for the third year in a row, by the latest Times Higher Education University Rankings.

This remarkable achievement highlights KAUST's rapid progress under its *Accelerating Impact* strategy.

KAUST surpassed more than 350 other universities across the MENA region, achieving a score of 98.0 in the Research Quality pillar, 99.3 in the industry pillar, and 98.8 in the International Outlook pillar.

These scores are above global leaders such as Cambridge and Harvard.



“

[KAUST] has ... become one of the leading research universities in the world. The new strategy ... represents a new era for the University to become a beacon of knowledge and a source of inspiration and innovation ... for the betterment of the Kingdom and the world.”

– *Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman*
August 2023





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**H.R.H. Abdullah bin Bandar
bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud**
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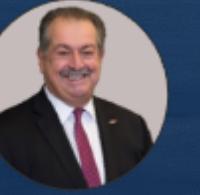
**Eng. Amin H.
Nasser**



**Dr. Muhammad M.
Al Saggaf**



**Sir Edward
Byrne AC**



**Eng. Andrew N.
Liveris**



**Mr. Henry
A. Fernandez**



**Mr. John L.
Thornton**



KAUST President's Leadership Team



Sir Edward Byrne AC
President



Amr Atiah
VP, Campus and
Community



Mohammed Mallawi
VP, Government
Affairs and Security



Pierre Magistretti
VP, Research



Ian Campbell
Senior VP, National
Transformation Institute



Samer Samman
Senior VP & Chief
Administration Officer



Maryam Ficociello
Deputy Secretary
General & Acting Chief
Governance Officer



Safaa Baawad
Chief Internal Audit
Executive



Teofilo Abrajano
Chief of Staff



Emily Osborne
VP & Chief Communications
Officer, Global Branding &
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VP, Education &
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Chief Financial Officer



Gary Ray
General Counsel



Omar Knio
VP, Academic Affairs



Peter Goadsby
Senior Associate to
the President



Gianluca Setti
Dean, CEMSE
Division



Chak K. Chan
Dean, PSE Division



Matthew McCabe
Dean, BESE Division



Jonathan Grant
VP, Strategic
Initiatives





Located on the Red Sea

KAUST enjoys a scenic location on the shores of the Red Sea, just south of King Abdullah Economic City and a one-hour drive north from Jeddah International Airport.



KAUST attracts some of the brightest minds from across the globe, with ~135 nationalities living, working and studying on campus, creating a dynamic international environment that is supporting Saudi Arabia to achieve Vision 2030 goals.



KAUST has grown into more than a university; it is a unique ecosystem where **education, research, innovation, and industry** converge.



Education

1,851 students from 77 countries (35% from Saudi Arabia)



Research

832 researchers and postdocs, 184 faculty



Innovation

374 startups supported by KAUST's accelerator program; US\$648 million investment raised by KAUST startups



Industry

4,500+ jobs created

KAUST Quick Facts





The Campus

Total Campus Size:

36 Million+

Square Meters

KAUST Community Stats:

16,958 135

People who work and/or
live at KAUST

Represented
Countries/Territories



Academic Stats

1851

Students

35%

Saudi

65%

International

38%

Female

62%

Male



Scientists

184

Faculty

832

Researchers
and Postdocs

Alumni

3,675

Alumni

65%

International

35%

Saudi

2,750

M.S.

1,426

Ph.D.

(Includes duo degrees)





KAUST's strategy: *Accelerating Impact*





Business **Economy**

Saudi Arabia outlines new plan for research, development and innovation

Programme will add \$16bn to kingdom's GDP by 2040, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman says



Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman says the kingdom aims to become a global leader in research, development and innovation. AP

July 1, 2022

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman unveiled a new programme for the research, development and innovation (RDI) sector, which aims to add 60 billion riyals (\$16bn) to the kingdom's gross domestic product by 2040.

The National Aspirations and Priorities for RDI initiative will entail an annual investment equal to 2.5 per cent of the country's GDP in 2040, creating "high-value" jobs in science and technology, and further strengthening the kingdom's position as the Arab world's biggest economy, Prince Mohammed said, according to a report by the official Saudi Press Agency.

In 2023, KAUST entered a new phase in its evolution with a strategy to **transform** its research for the **benefit** of the Kingdom.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Prime Minister, and Chairman of KAUST's Board of Trustees at the time, launched the Accelerating Impact strategy, aiming to transform research into **economically productive innovations**.

“ Our ambition for Saudi Arabia is to become a global leader in research, development and innovation with an annual investment equivalent to 2.5% of GDP in 2040. This will diversify and add \$16 billion to the economy while creating high-value jobs in science and technology. ”

– *Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman 2022*

“As the University continues its *Accelerating Impact* strategy, it is an honor to be part of an academic community at the forefront of translating research into economically productive innovations for the benefit of society across the Kingdom and the world.”

– KAUST President Sir Edward Byrne AC FMedSci

- Sir Edward Byrne AC was appointed as KAUST's President in September 2024.
- Sir Edward's appointment marked a significant milestone for KAUST as the University continues its transformative journey through the implementation of its *Accelerating Impact* strategy.
- His extensive background in academia and industry uniquely positions him to propel KAUST in supporting the goals of Saudi Vision 2030, solidifying its standing as a leading research technology university.





Accelerating Impact



Since its announcement in 2023, KAUST's strategy has presented new opportunities to accelerate the University's positive impact on the world through alignment with Saudi Vision 2030 and the Research, Development, and Innovation Authority's (RDIA) priorities. Its focus is enhancing our global and local partnerships and achieving commercialization and economic impact.

Pillar 1

Restructuring research funding and re-focusing research to align with RDIA priorities.

Pillar 2

Creating a National Transformation Institute (NTI) to accelerate technology development and commercialization.

Pillar 3

Strengthening international collaboration to reinforce existing and partnerships build new ones.

A photograph of a modern building facade with a pattern of vertical and horizontal panels, likely made of metal or glass, reflecting the sky. The building is set against a clear blue sky.

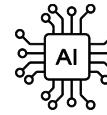
Accelerating Impact:

Centers of Excellence



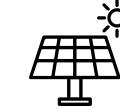
- As part of the *Accelerating Impact* strategy launched in 2023, KAUST established four Centers of Excellence (CoE) that align with the Kingdom's RDIA priorities.
- Each CoE is dedicated to pioneering high-impact research that advances economic and social impact for Saudi Arabia and the world.
- This approach leverages the strengths, resources, and co-funding of local entities, thereby enhancing mutual growth and innovation, as illustrated by ongoing discussions with in-Kingdom entities such as Saudi Aramco and the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture.

Four Centers of Excellence



Generative AI

Aims to establish excellence in generative artificial intelligence (AI) research and development in the Kingdom through the innovation of AI models and training future talent.



Renewable Energy and Storage

Aims to develop and deploy innovative renewable energy and storage technologies to support Saudi Arabia's transition to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy.



Sustainable Food Security

Aims to accelerate the delivery of technology-based solutions that maximize sustainable food security and address critical challenges for agri-food systems in desert regions.



Smart Health

Aims to transform the healthcare delivery system of Saudi Arabia by developing innovative technologies through targeted collaborative partnerships with national and international stakeholders.

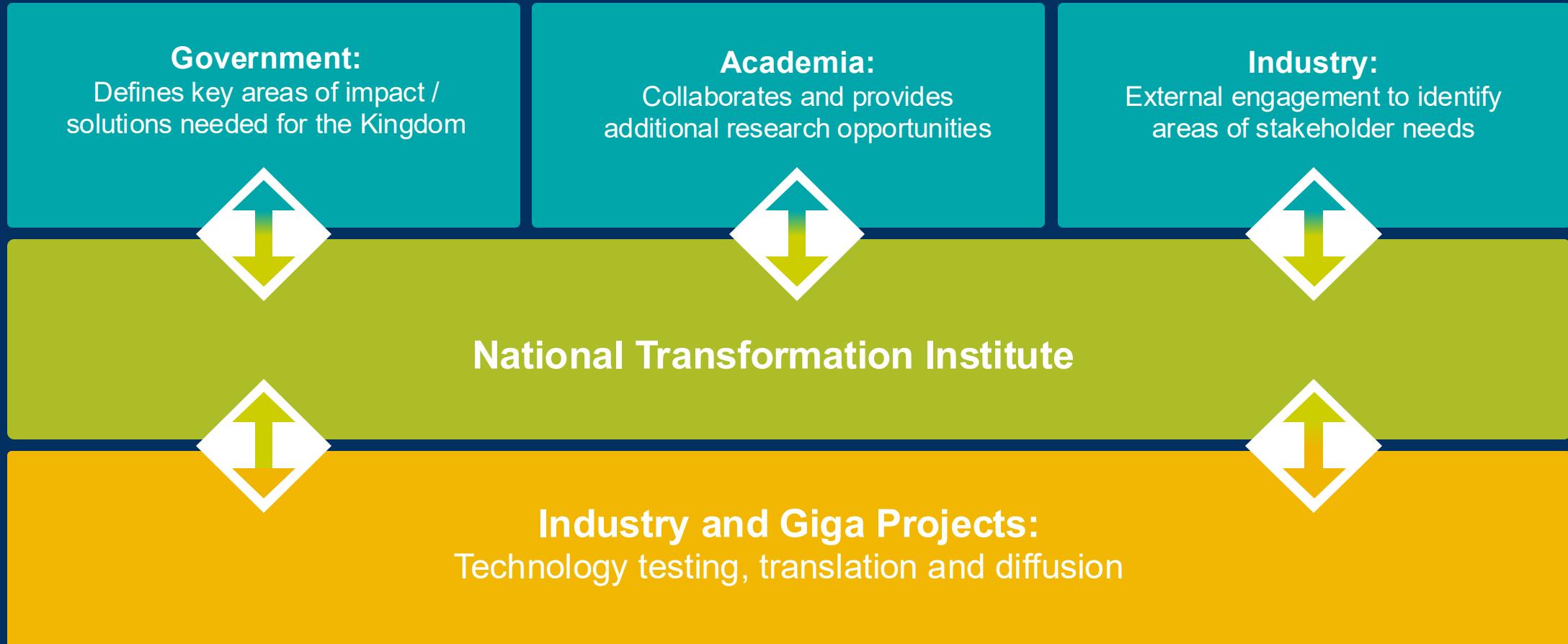
The National Transformation Institute (NTI)

The NTI represents an important milestone in KAUST's technology development and research commercialization, in line with the Kingdom's economic diversification objectives.

The NTI is set to drive significant impact by:

- **Creating opportunities for real-world impact:** By fostering applied science and research, the NTI will deliver practical solutions to national challenges, contributing directly to the Kingdom's Vision 2030.
- **Leveraging KAUST's innovation ecosystem:** Building on KAUST's existing ecosystem, the NTI will enhance the translation of research into market-ready products and services, benefiting key stakeholders within Saudi Arabia's economy.
- **Fostering collaboration and unlocking funding:** The NTI will open new avenues for collaboration and funding across KAUST, government, academia, and industry, maximizing the impact of research and innovation efforts.

The NTI's Scope







Education at
KAUST



Education at KAUST

KAUST is a center of research and education excellence that attracts the Kingdom's brightest graduates and postgraduates to continue their professional development and research careers.

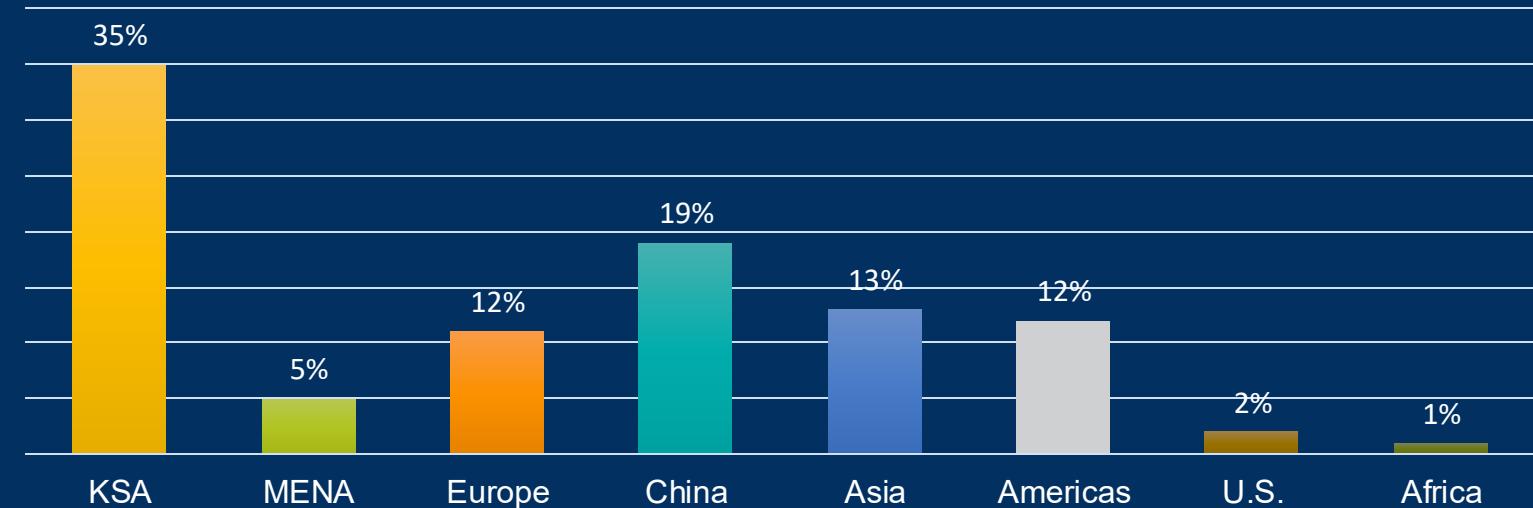
- 1,851 students from 81 countries (35% from Saudi Arabia)
- The number of Saudi nationals graduating from KAUST is increasing every year
- KAUST's most recent graduation ceremony was notable for honoring the highest number (52%) of Saudi graduates in the University's history



KAUST Students' Global Alma Maters



KAUST students home regions (2025)





KAUST alumni around the world

Preparing leaders to shape the future

Babar Khan
Head of Life Sciences Investments
NEOM Investment Fund
Ph.D. '18



Asrar Damdam
CEO & Founder
Uvera Inc.
Forbes 30 under 30
M.S. '18, Ph.D. '23



Ahmad Showail
Fulbright Scholar (UC, Irvine)
Dean, College of Computer
Science and Engineering,
Taibah University
M.S. '10, Ph.D. '16



Abeer Al Doghaither
President & CEO,
Dar Al-Hekma University
Ph.D. '15



Benjamin Cook
Senior Director of Research
Meta
M.S. '11



Jungsong Zhao
Senior Director
Yahoo
M.S. '12



Aubrie O'Rourke
Project Scientist, Kennedy
Space Center, NASA,
Ph.D. '15



Haleema Alamri
Director of the Innovation and
Technology Observatory,
Ministry of Energy
Ph.D. '16



Yu Li
Visiting Scholar, Harvard University
Assistant Professor,
The Chinese University of Hong
Kong
Forbes 30 under 30 Asia 2022
M.S. '16, Ph.D. '20





KAUST

Research & Development

Research at KAUST



Research at KAUST benefits the Kingdom and the international community by focusing on the key research areas set out by the Research, Development, and Innovation Authority (RDIA)

Saudi Research, Development, and Innovation Authority (RDIA) priorities:



Economies
of the Future



Health and
Wellness



Energy and Industrial
Leadership



Sustainable
Environment and
Essential Needs



National
Transformation
Institute - Applied
research for economic
impact

KAUST research & technology

Areas with global impact



Energy

Clean combustion,
hydrocarbon production,
membranes and materials



Digital

Extreme simulations,
supercomputing, and
AI, and ML



Food

Desert agriculture, salt-
tolerant crops, and
greenhouse technologies



Water

Desalination, water
reuse and recycling



Environment

Solar technology,
marine science, and
carbon capture



Health

Bioinformatics and
biotechnology



2025 Clarivate Highly Cited Researchers



- academic publications ranking in top 1% of cited research papers (2014-2024)



Thomas Allen



Osman Bakr



Derya Baran



Hylke Beck



Luigi Cavallo



Thomas Crowther



Stefaan De Wolf



Carlos Duarte



Mohamed Eddaoudi



Fernando Maestre



Matthew McCabe



Omar F. Mohammed



Yun Hau Ng



Haavard Rue



Yoshihide Wada



Huabin Zhang

Unparalleled research facilities

KAUST Core Labs



Supercomputing
Core Lab



Prototyping and
Product Development
Core Lab



Visualization
Core Lab



Plant Growth
Core Lab



Bioscience
Core Lab



Nanofabrication
Core Lab



Analytical
Chemistry
Core Lab



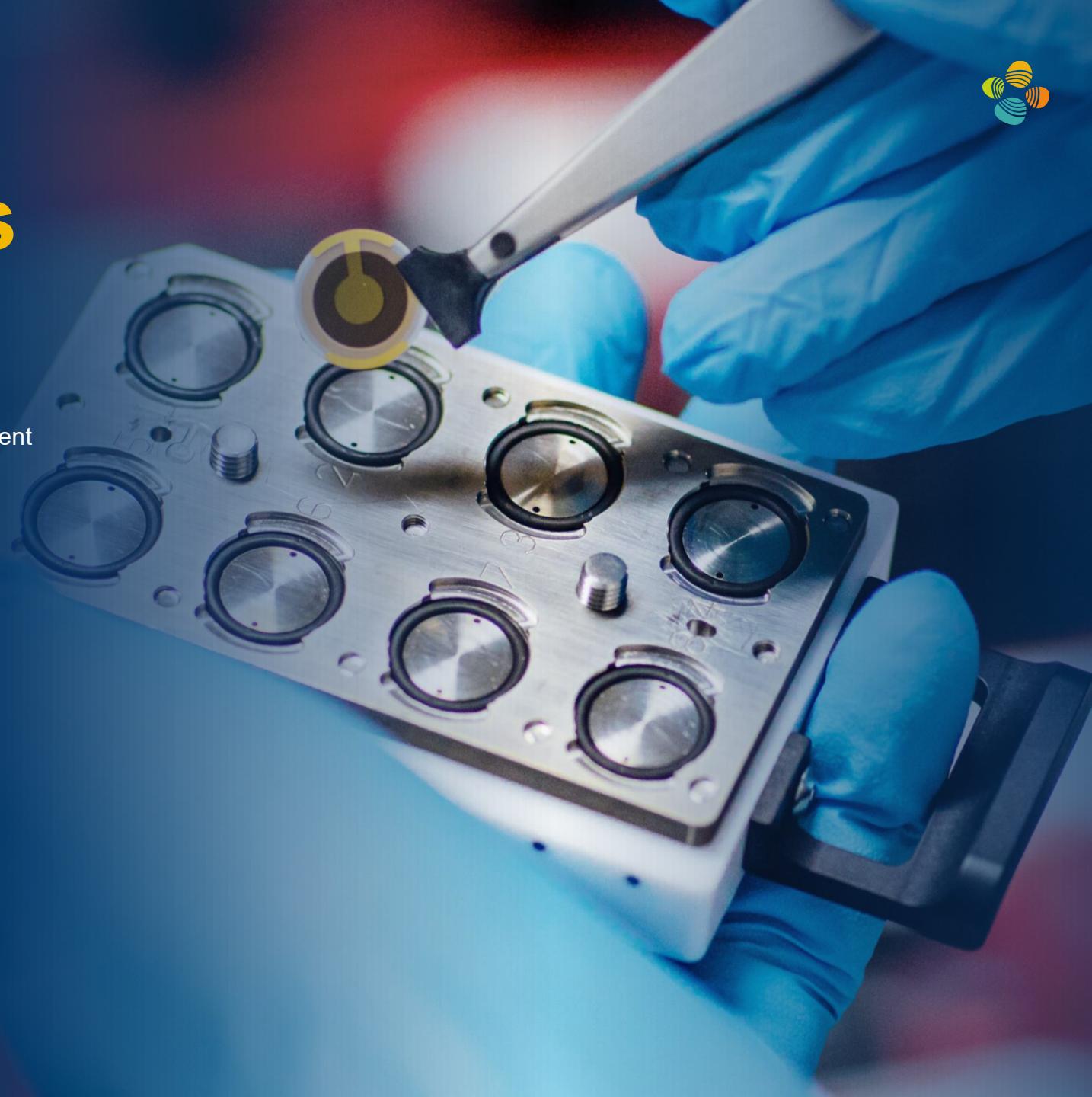
Coastal and
Marine
Resources
Core Lab



Imaging and
Characterization
Core Lab



Animal
Resources
Core Lab





Supercomputing power
Shaheen III







**Economic &
social impact**



Innovation

KAUST is a catalyst for innovation, entrepreneurial development, and impact in Saudi Arabia and the world.

All with one ambition:

To support the transition of KAUST research into practical, market-ready solutions that address the Kingdom's most pressing challenges.





Innovation to Impact



374
Startups
Supported



4,566
SME Professionals
Trained



279
Intellectual
Property Deals



2,104
Invention
Disclosures



+4,500
Jobs
Created



\$648M
Investment
Raised

An innovation ecosystem in Saudi Arabia

Through the National Transformation Institute, KAUST will provide seed funding for startups and new ideas, often in collaboration with other funders, and provide:

- Support for small- and medium-sized enterprises
- Training, advisory services and intellectual property management through the KAUST Technology Transfer Office
- Support transformative projects driven by Saudi government ministries and industry
- Spearhead multidisciplinary initiatives critical to the Kingdom and KAUST



Start-ups



Universities



Government



Incubators / Accelerators



Corporations



Venture Capital



KAUST Innovation

Measuring success:

- Impact on the economy and society
- Growth in funding and support
- Strengthening strategic partnerships
- Public recognition and trust
- Global standing in knowledge and innovation





KAUST Innovation Mandate



Human Capital

Inspiring a collaborative network of empowered innovators



Knowledge Exchange

Unlocking opportunity that increases the flow of innovation in the ecosystem



Implementation

Developing the environments, spaces, and programs that allow innovation to flourish



Industry

- KAUST is building productive partnerships with some of the world's biggest companies.
- We connect industry leaders with our researchers to transform innovative ideas into commercially viable ideas and products.
- Such close collaboration with industry helps us guide research directions within KAUST.
- Partners include global leaders like Saudi Aramco, Boeing, Dow, Hewlett Packard, and Bruker.

KAUST collaborations and partnerships

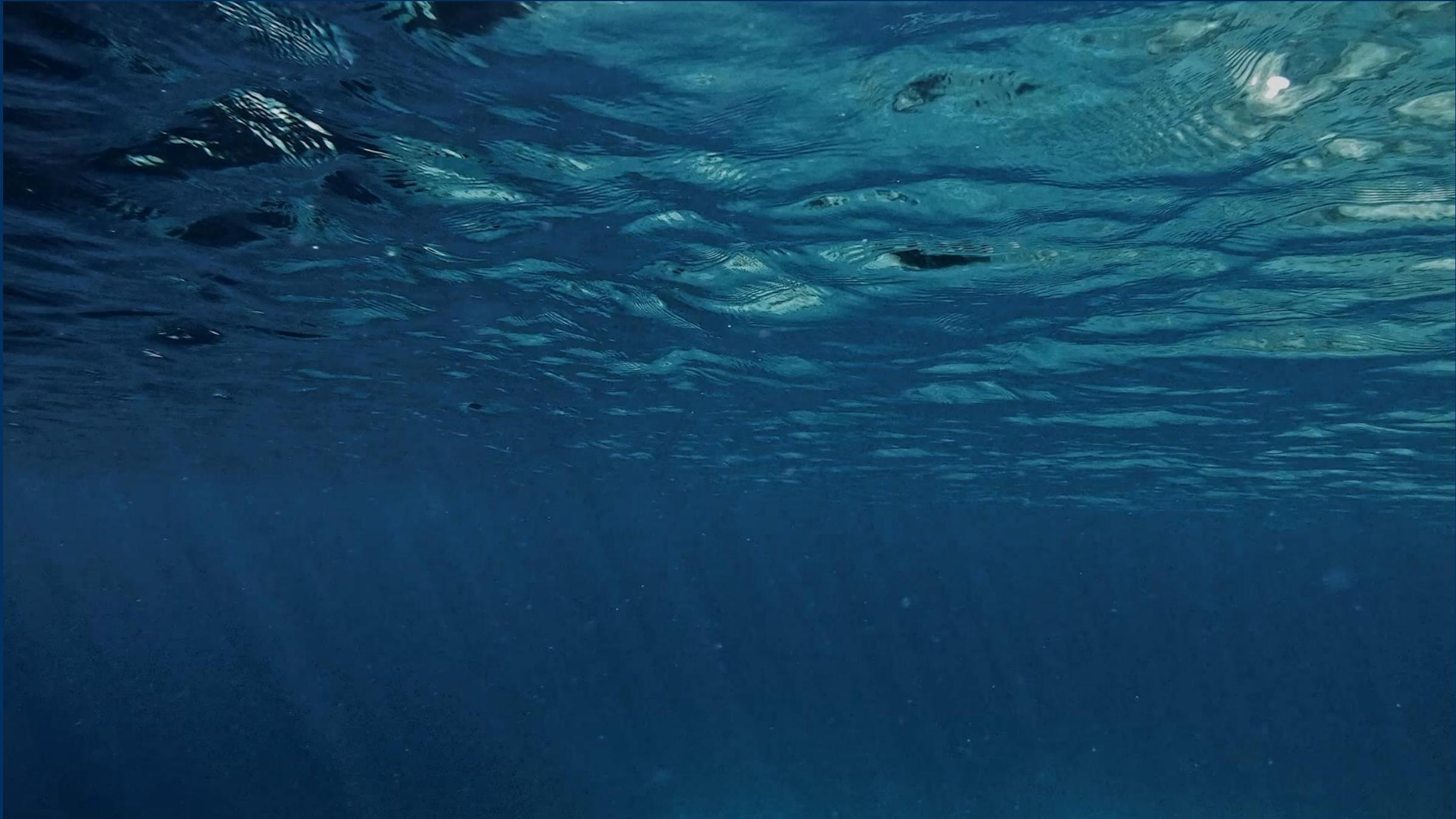


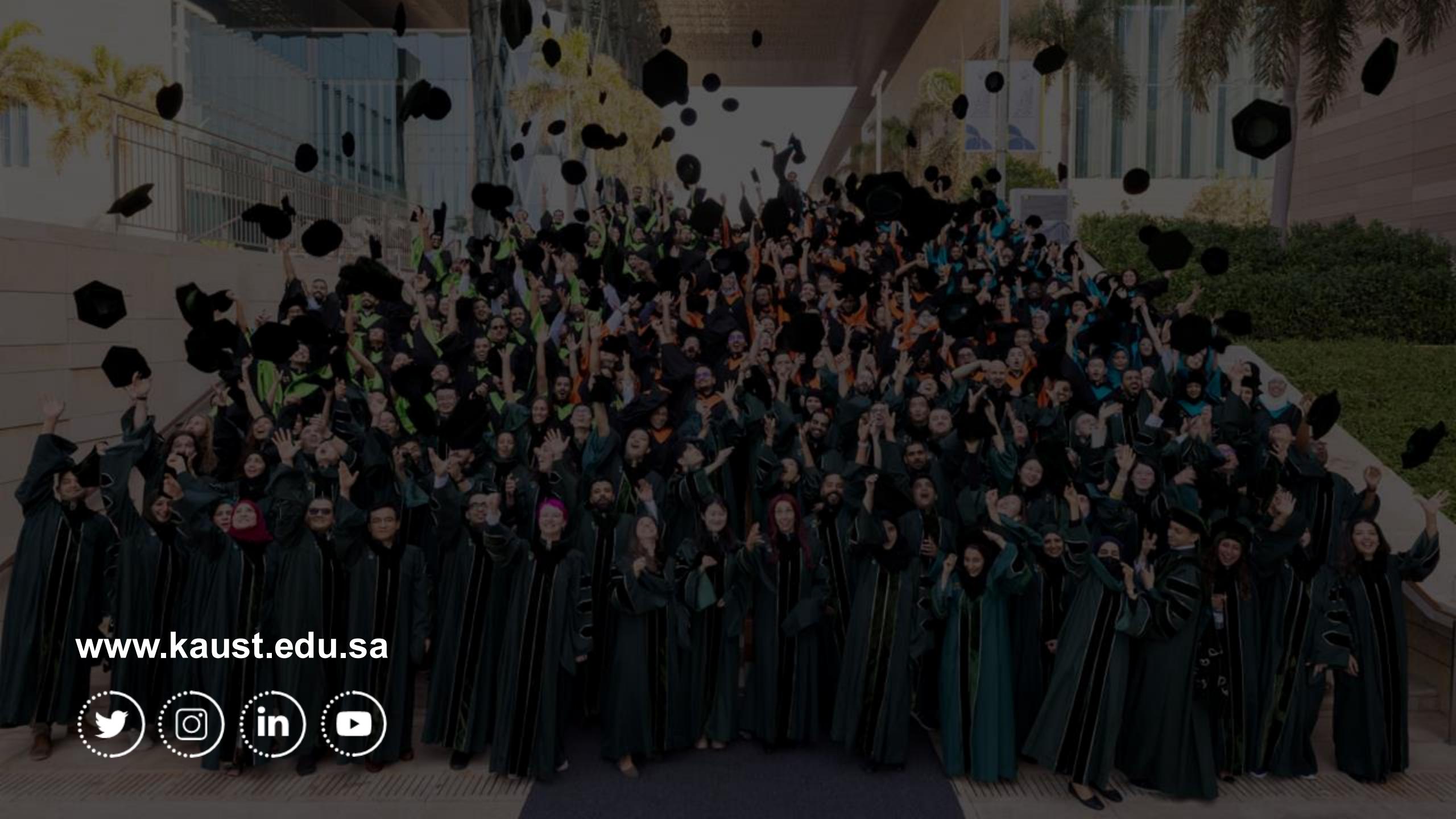
KAUST in-Kingdom industry partners



cordap







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