FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Vin Ko Senior Program Manager St. Louis Mosaic Project vko@worldtradecenter-stl.com February 13, 2018 Contact: Derek Bartlem Managing Director/Head of Research USA KWS Gateway Research Center Derek.Bartlem@kws.com



ST. LOUIS MOSAIC PROJECT

KWS Gateway Research Center Becomes Fifteenth Mosaic Ambassador Organization

The St. Louis Mosaic Project is proud to announce that KWS Gateway Research Center will join 14 St. Louis area companies and organizations as the latest addition to the Mosaic Ambassador program. KWS will join the Ambassador program as a gold level organization. KWS has been active in promoting diversity and inclusion in the work place including creation of an EXPLORE AgTech program with Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP). Companies at the Gold Level agree to spread awareness of the St. Louis Mosaic Project, encourage associates to become Mosaic Ambassadors, and participate in volunteer opportunities that support international communities. Additionally, as a Gold company the KWS Gateway Research Center has hired and sponsored employees for various visas. KWS also plans to promote the advantages of establishing a presence in the St. Louis region to international companies that it works with globally.

As KWS' first research facility outside Germany, the KWS Gateway Research Center is built to strengthen its position in the global plant research community in North America and is an integral part of the KWS network of breeding stations and research activities. The center is in BRDG Park at the Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, Missouri, USA. The center interacts closely with their research headquarters in Germany, and with local and international research communities. Research in the KWS Gateway Research Center includes a combination of basic research and product development, supported by existing facilities in BRDG Park as well as by an excellent infrastructure and a top-quality science platform.

As a Gold Company, KWS continues to contribute to the Mosaic Project goals to grow the region's economy through participating in global trade missions to places such as Argentina and Israel and plans to expand scientific exchanges and relationships. With a large percentage of their St. Louis associates being foreign born and approximately half of their foreign born

employees in key leadership positions, KWS plans to publicly promote the benefits of diversity and multiculturalism on forums and formal panels. KWS has also supported the St. Louis Mosaic Project's efforts towards the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy, which is awarded to graduating high school students in districts with an approved program, who have demonstrated achievement in English, and a language other than English. All Missouri students with a competence in reading and writing in any of the world's languages are potential Seal candidates.

About the St. Louis Mosaic Project

The St. Louis Mosaic Project was launched in 2012 in response to an economic impact report that showed St. Louis was lagging in immigrant growth and highlighted the potential economic benefits of increasing its foreign-born population. The Mosaic Project is a regional initiative that is professionally managed by St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, World Trade Center and a 27-member committee. Its goal is to transform St. Louis into the fastest growing major metropolitan area for immigration by 2020 and promote regional prosperity through immigration and innovation. Learn more at <u>www.stlmosaicproject.org</u>.