

Dr. Peterson

Official Inauguration of Institut Lafayette

4:30 p.m. Monday, May 26, 2014, Georgia Tech-Lorraine, Metz, France

Messieurs les Présidents, Monsieur le Maire, Distinguished Guests,

My French is not as good as that of Marquis de La Fayette so please allow me to continue in English...

The creation of the Lafayette Institute can be considered a new chapter in the French-American relations in Lorraine. By providing access to critically needed and complex technology infrastructure, by sharing expertise in science and technology, and by simultaneously offering business validation and commercialization tools, the Lafayette Institute will showcase and validate Georgia Tech's effectiveness in creating a full ecosystem to generate economic development and value for our international partners. At the same time, it will enable significant growth of the research, teaching, and entrepreneurship activities of our faculty, staff, alumni, and students (especially graduate students) with support originating from French and European sources. It will extend the footprint of IEN, iMAT, and EII among others and create new business opportunities, especially in the area of energy and materials. It will serve as a pilot program to create and adapt future initiatives to support innovation on other international hubs and help create a real Georgia Tech global international network for excellence in innovation and entrepreneurship. As it is stated in our Strategic Plan, "As R&D becomes increasingly global, Georgia Tech will be prominent in innovation hubs around the world. We will create new portals in key global locations that bring economic development prospects..."

We are excited to be part of the Lafayette Institute.