Georgia Tech

IMPACT

Building New Companies from Georgia Tech Research

Georgia Tech VentureLab, formed to commercialize technology developed in the Institute's research program, has already helped launch two companies that were recently accepted into the Advanced Technology Development Center, Georgia Tech's business incubator. The new firms are based on sensor technologies developed in Georgia Tech's Manufacturing Research Center and the Georgia Tech Research Institute.

Radatec Inc. is commercializing radar-based sensor technology for monitoring complex heavy machinery such as gas turbines used for generating electricity. The system, which

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The Radatec sensor.

measures variations in turbine blades while they are in operation, will cut operational costs by helping equipment owners more effectively schedule costly maintenance and avoid breakdowns.

Qcept Technologies Inc. is bringing to market patented non-contact sensors able to detect changes in the condition or position of a surface, providing detailed views of surface defects, corrosion and irregularities. Applications include device and thin film coating inspection and monitoring of critical machine components.

Beyond the companies already launched, VentureLab is grooming two more new ventures. Vivonetics is developing a unique living cell gene expression system for use in drug discovery, diagnostics and pharmacogenomics. Jacket Micro Devices is developing a high performance organic fabrication technology to produce mixed-signal integrated components and systems for wireless consumer electronic devices.

VentureLab has developed a roster of some 90 Georgia Tech technology innovations that may have commercial potential.

Providing faculty members a clear pathway for bringing their laboratory innovations to market, VentureLab is a one-stop center for technology commercialization. Its goal is maximize the economic return on investments made in Georgia Tech's research program.
www.venturelab.gatech.edu

FaciliTech Fosters Growth

Georgia Tech's state-funded FaciliTech program enables companies locating or expanding in Georgia to tap the university's resources for assistance. Since its inception in 1995, almost 40 FaciliTech projects have been undertaken across a broad range of industries, from electronics and software to textiles and food processing. To date, the program has supported the location, retention and expansion of 5,000 jobs and investment exceeding $420 million for Georgia.

In **Crawford County**, FaciliTech enabled Georgia Tech to assist a manufacturer of adhesives, coatings and specialty chemicals with a new plant layout and environmental issues. Poly-Carb's recently launched facility represents a $4 million capital investment and 42 initial jobs.
www.ceds.gatech.edu/facilitech/work.html

ATDC Savannah Gets First Member Company

The Advanced Technology Development Center's new **Savannah** operation has accepted its first member company. Storm Shelter Electronics Corporation, which has developed a system for protecting computers and other electronic devices from the damaging effects of lightning, will be part of ATDC's community of technology-based companies in coastal Georgia.

Using a nationwide lightning detection system and a satellite-based messaging network, Storm Shelter

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Dennis Page (left) and Bruce Jacobs display components of the Storm Shelter system.

automatically disconnects sensitive electronic equipment from AC current, phone lines and cable connections whenever a thunderstorm approaches. After the threat passes, the same system reconnects the equipment.

ATDC's new Savannah program was established earlier this year as a collaborative effort of coastal area organizations, the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism's CyberGeorgia initiative, and the ATDC.
www.stoplightning.com

The Public Sector Environment

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently selected Georgia Tech's Center for International Standards & Quality (CISQ) as one of eight Local Resource Centers for Environmental Management Systems (EMS).

CISQ staff will provide training and coaching so that Georgia's public agencies—from city halls to airports to water treatment plants—can emulate the best practices of the private sector. Adopting an EMS helps such entities improve their environmental performance and meet environmental goals. Becoming more effective on the environmental front makes communities more economically sound and attractive to stakeholders. **www.industry.gatech.edu/quality/**

Fiscal Fitness

Georgia Tech is a major contributor in the University System of Georgia's impact on the state's economy, according to a study released last spring and reported in the Georgia Tech *Whistle* newspaper. The system's total impact in the previous fiscal year was $8 billion, of which Georgia Tech accounted for $1.3 billion.

The study by the University of Georgia's Selig Center for Economic Growth analyzed three categories of expenditures: institutional spending for operations, institutional spending for capital projects and spending by enrolled students. It did not include spending by people visiting University System campuses or spending related to athletic events or reunions.

Safety and Science

Several environmental health and safety experts from the Georgia Tech Research Institute were key participants last May in the 2002 Science Safety Conference of the Georgia Science Supervisors Association.

During the event held at Southern Polytechnic State University in **Marietta**, they contributed sessions on such topics as safe experiments for kindergarten and elementary school students, indoor air quality in schools, emergency response plans, storage and disposal of household chemicals, and recordkeeping and legal concerns.

Some 60 science teachers attended the conference.

Jefferson Jumps Ahead

Georgia Tech's Economic Development Institute conducted a strategic assessment for **Jefferson County** and made several recommendations to the local development authority on which to base a strategic plan for the next 10 years.

The development authority has since purchased 252 acres for its first industrial park and is developing an economic development profile. Also under way are assessments related to information technology and tourism. The county aims to create and retain scores of jobs in manufacturing and other sectors. **www.ceds.gatech.edu/**
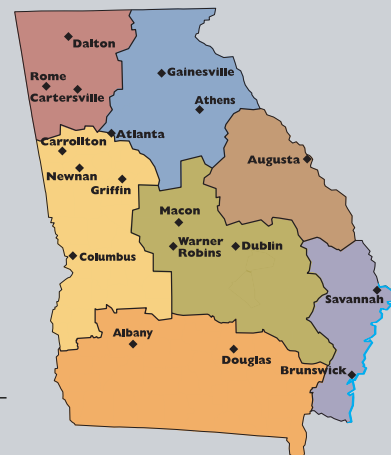

Around the State

■ In **Douglas**, Georgia Tech has helped Optima Chemical Group in various ways, including siting the company's plant, assessing environmental compliance and workplace safety needs and consulting on processes, as well as providing qualified employees. The pharmaceutical intermediates manufacturer has made capital investments of $10 million to $12 million, and last year experienced a 25 percent growth in sales.

■ Partnering with the Georgia Rural Economic Development Center, Georgia Tech's Economic Development Institute has worked to foster entrepreneurial development in **east Georgia**. Since April 2001, EDI and GREDC have helped more than 50 entrepreneurs and 13 rural communities with relevant guidance, assessments and technical assistance.

■ In **Dalton**, regional staff provided Universal Textile Technologies with information that led the firm to develop a soy-based oil to replace the petroleum-based oil it used in manufacturing polyurethane carpet backing. There's an environmental benefit from using a renewable resource, but the company also predicts increased sales and efficiency.

Georgia Tech's Regional Office Network

Albany	229/430-4188	Dublin	478/275-6543
Athens	706/542-8900	Gainesville	770/531-4550
Augusta	706/737-1414	Griffin	770/412-4081
Brunswick	912/634-4860	Macon	478/751-6190
Carrollton	770/836-6665	Newnan	770/254-7592
Cartersville	770/387-4002	Rome	706/295-6008
Columbus	706/649-1661	Savannah	912/651-2551
Dalton	706/272-2702	Warner Robins	478/953-3155
Douglas	912/384-1121		

For more information: Assistance to Georgia businesses, communities and economic developers: **www.edi.gatech.edu** • Assistance to start-up technology companies: **www.atdc.org** • Commercialization assistance to Georgia Tech faculty: **www.venturelab.gatech.edu** • Applied research: **www.gtri.gatech.edu** • Continuing education: **www.gtconted.org** • Georgia Tech home page: **www.gatech.edu** •