It is a great honor to be here with Lieutenant Governor Taylor and Mayor Franklin, who are leaders of the team that makes economic development happen in Georgia and Atlanta. And Georgia Tech is very proud to have an integral role to play in that process.

In the knowledge-based economy of the 21st century, the way to beat the competition is to be first with a new idea. And the most dynamic expression of economic development is start-up companies that translate new ideas into commercially viable products and services. That is where the Advanced Technology Development Center steps in to give Atlanta and Georgia an edge.

ATDC is the nation’s oldest university-based business incubator, and the long list of its honors and awards is proof that it is one of the best. The combination of ATDC’s university setting and support from the state has given ATDC stability across the economic cycles as other incubators have come and gone. This durability provides a steadying influence for our technology start-ups, and it has also enabled us to continually refine, develop, and expand ATDC’s operations over the past two decades.

One of the results of that growth and expansion process has been to “franchise” ATDC to other locations around the state. We have an ATDC in middle Georgia near Robbins Air Force Base, for example, and we are in the process of opening a Savannah ATDC.

Back here in Atlanta, we face the need for a headquarters presence for this growing state network as well as more space to assist the growing high-tech business sector of this community. This new facility comes as the logical next step for ATDC, and Georgia Tech’s Vice President for Economic Development and Technology Ventures Wayne Hodges will tell you more about that in just a moment.

We are especially pleased that ATDC’s new home will be in Centergy One. This location not only provides additional office space for technology-based businesses, but it is also next door to the Yamacraw Broadband Design Center and across 5th Street from Technology Square. And you can see all of these facilities going up simultaneously.

Technology Square will gather up Georgia Tech’s other business-related programs and place them here in the middle of Atlanta’s emerging high-tech center. Technology Square will house our Economic Development Institute and our continuing education and distance learning programs, which serve the business community.
This complex also includes a beautiful new home for our College of Management, which has a special focus on entrepreneurism and the management of technology. This location will help us achieve our aspirations for the College of Management by providing an exciting opportunity for our students and professors to interact with the start-up companies that will be created and located right across the street.

We believe that the synergy that will develop between Centergy on the north side of 5th Street and Technology Square on the south side will provide tremendous momentum for Midtown’s emergence as the technology corridor for Atlanta and Georgia.

It is very exciting for Georgia Tech to be a partner in creating this high-tech corridor, and we are grateful to Kim King of Kim King Associates, Inc. and Frank Smith of The University Financing Foundation for making the physical facilities of Centergy a reality.