

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
30th Anniversary Celebration, GTRI Huntsville, February 26, 2008

- GTRI Huntsville first opened its doors in February 1978. Pleased to join you in celebrating 30th anniversary.
- When it opened, it was known simply as the “Huntsville Operations.”
 - Original mission: an on-site presence at the Redstone Arsenal to support U.S. Army missile technology.
 - Today: have expanded to include software engineering and systems engineering for variety of Department of Defense programs.
 - Began with six research faculty and co-op students. Have grown to 33 staffers.
 - Locating on site at Redstone Arsenal gave the Army instant access to Tech expertise and Georgia Tech direct contact with its research sponsor. In addition to technical work, Georgia Tech was able to provide in independent, objective, expert assessment of what would work and what would not.
- Over the years, this partnership has enabled GTRI Huntsville to contribute to many of the defense systems that have been on the front lines of keeping America safe:
 - The HAWK surface-to-air missile system, which has maintained its effectiveness through several decades and several generations of technology because GTRI Huntsville expertise was focused on systematic upgrading of weapons systems.
 - Computer software for modeling air defense systems such as the Patriot, HAWK, and MEADS (Medium Extended Air Defense System), and for war game simulations using air defense systems. (Limit to how much actual, real-life testing can be done with missile and rocket systems – don’t want to blow anything up, endanger anyone, provoke other nations, or waste expensive weapons.)
- Classified nature of much of the work that goes on here makes GTRI Huntsville one of Georgia Tech’s best kept secrets. Not only significant growth over past 30 years, but also major Georgia Tech milestones:
 - Georgia Tech’s first operational site away from Atlanta.
 - Earned Georgia Tech’s first significant license revenues.
 - Conducted some of Georgia Tech’s earliest international research, with successful collaborations in Spain, Sweden, and Singapore.
- Today both Georgia Tech and GTRI:
 - Have operations at several sites, including international locations in France, Singapore, and Ireland.
 - Have increased license revenues.
 - Are becoming truly global entities.

- Most of GTRI's facilities outside Atlanta are field offices. In addition to being a field office, Huntsville comprises one of GTRI's seven labs. Dual role means that GTRI Huntsville IS Georgia Tech in Huntsville
 - Important connection between Georgia Tech and the U.S. Army, which is a significant client of GTRI. (60% of GTRI research is armed services.)
 - Georgia Tech has long tradition of supporting our armed services; GTRI Huntsville a very important part of that picture.
 - Important connection between Georgia Tech and the Huntsville community
 - Industry
 - Georgia Tech students (11 from Huntsville area), parents, and alumni (over 1,000 in Huntsville area)
 - Other universities such as UAH. Have 2 co-op students from UAH at GTRI, and hope to expand our partnership.
 - Pleased to have all of you celebrating with us.

- In many ways, GTRI is “back to the future” for Georgia Tech
 - As practical, applied research arm, GTRI harks back to our original “shop culture” which gave our personality its practical, entrepreneurial bent.
 - 21st century challenge for universities: be drivers of economic development not only by educating the workforce, but also through research and technology transfer.
 - Georgia Tech widely regarded as excelling at technology transfer. GTRI the “secret sauce” for our success. Allows GT to cover the entire spectrum of research, from the most fundamental, exploratory research to very practical, immediate problem-solving.
 - Full range of research capabilities, good mix of fundamental, exploratory research with applied research, gives Georgia Tech an advantage over most other universities.

- Celebration of this significant milestone in the life of GTRI Huntsville is an appropriate occasion for the presentation of the very first GTRI Award for Exceptional Innovation and Leadership, and it is my privilege to make the presentation.

- Dr. William McCorkle is the executive director of the Army Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center. He has been at Redstone for nearly 50 years.
 - 3 decades ago, faced with personnel dilemma – large number of WW II Army engineers were retiring.
 - What we are celebrating today is his bold solution – to bring in Georgia Tech; establish permanent presence of Tech engineers.
 - Worked with Bob Shackelford, then director of GTRI's Electro-Magnetics Lab, and the rest, as they say is history. GT pleased, proud to be partner with AMRDEC in this positive, mutually beneficial relationship.

- Dr. McCorkle has had outstanding career of his own:
 - PhD in physics from University of Tennessee in 1956.
 - Has been involved in virtually every Army missile and rocket program since then, and is an internationally recognized leader in missile and aviation technology.
 - Numerous patents and papers in missile guidance and control systems.
 - Long list of innovations has come out of Redstone under his leadership. Practical applications in broader economy range from laser eye surgery to storm warning radar systems. Georgia Tech pleased to have made a small contribution to some of these innovations.
 - While he enjoys bicycling and flying planes, he maintains the most fun he has is coming to work every morning.

- The GTRI Award for Exceptional Innovation and Leadership recognizes individuals who have made a significant impact on technology through their leadership and creative innovation. Know of no one more qualified to be the first recipient than Dr. William C. McCorkle.