



Upon graduation from the MsET Technology Incubator in April, Optech International will join the Joint Lidar Bathymetry Technical Center of Expertise (JALBTCX) at the Stennis International Airport. JALBTCX is a consortium of federal agencies and corporate experts in hydrographic surveying, with special focus in the \$10mm CHARTS project.

Optech is first step in Tech Park

MsET is looking forward with great anticipation to the graduation of Optech International from its technology incubator. In April, the company will become the first to locate at the Stennis Technology Park at the Stennis International Airport.

Optech International is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Canadian-based Optech Incorporated, a world-leader in the manufacturing of airborne laser mapping systems, and the only manufacturer of airborne laser bathymetric systems in North America. They have chosen to locate in the Stennis area in order to support the Joint Lidar Bathymetry

Technical Center of Expertise (JALBTCX), a consortium of federal agencies led by the U.S. Navy and Army Corps of Engineers, which are engaged in hydrographic surveying.

In September of last year, Optech delivered the world's most advanced laser bathymeter, CHARTS, to JALBTCX at the Stennis airport. Optech International has ongoing research and development efforts to integrate a hyperspectral imager into CHARTS, and to develop the sensor fusion algorithms and software which will enable the

2nd annual VC Forum a success

The Mississippi Enterprise for Technology (MsET) sponsored its 2nd annual Stennis Venture and Investment Capital Forum Oct. 28 and 29 at Casino Magic in Bay St. Louis, Ms.

The purpose of this unique event was to provide an opportunity for MsET's business incubator and Geospatial companies to network with investors and to showcase their technologies and services. Five companies presented to more than 15 venture and investment capital/private equity firms from around the nation. Also, more than 10 companies displayed exhibits and provided literature.

This year's event included heavy hitters such as Paladin Capital Group of Boulder, Co., which offers a \$300mm fund for Homeland Security projects.

In addition to making presentations, companies had the opportunity to network with investors during an evening reception and play golf on The Bridges golf course.

"This was only our second year and already the event is attracting serious investors who seem very interested in talking with our companies," said Greg Hinkebein, president of MsET.

Message from the President & CEO



Dear friends,

The Geospatial community supported by MsET is expanding beyond the gates of Stennis. We now have companies located in Picayune, Pass Christian and other surrounding communities. The growth of this industry has been substantial enough to create a significant number of technology jobs in the area.

One success story is Optech International, Inc., one of our tenant companies. Optech expanded to Mississippi from Toronto, Canada and started operations in the United States as an MsET incubator company. After 3 years, the company developed its technology to a point that required relocation to the Stennis Technology Park near Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. This will be the first step in the development of a technology park near the Stennis International Airport.

The growth of Geospatial technologies and remote sensing companies will undoubtedly produce even more high paying jobs in the future. MsET hopes to bring you even more success stories about other companies growing in south Mississippi. We all hope to establish a sustained growth of this industry that will carry technology development in Mississippi to the next level.

Sincerely,

B. Greg Hinkebein

MsET assists more than 45 companies

Following is a list of companies with which MsET works to provide business support:

- AeroAstro
- Aerotec LLC
- Agriculture Information Mgmt.
- Air-O-Space International Inc.
- Applied Geo Technologies Inc.
- Cimarron Software Services Inc.
- Concurrent Technologies Corp.
- dv8 Systems LLC
- Delta Security Technologies Inc.
- Diamond Data Systems
- Digital Globe Inc.
- Digital Media Inc.
- Digital Quest Inc.
- EMC Surveying & Mapping
- ESRI
- Forest One Inc.
- GB Tech Inc.
- General Dynamics AIS Inc.
- GeoData Airborne Mapping & Measurement
- GeoDigital Mapping Inc.
- Geospatial Insights Inc.
- GeoTek Mgmt. Services Co.
- Global Positioning Solutions Inc.
- InTime Inc.
- MapSAT
- Mid South Ag Data LLC
- MS Technology Alliance Inc.
- Motex Info. Technologies Inc.
- NVision Solutions Inc.
- North American DataCom
- Northrop Grumman IT
- Ocean Technologies LLC
- Omni Technologies Inc.
- Oologah Technologies Inc.
- Optech International Inc.
- Photon Industries Inc.
- Pixsell Inc..
- Planning Systems Inc.
- Pro Vision Technologies
- Radiance Technologies Inc.
- ReflecTech Inc.
- Science Applications Int'l Corp.
- 3001 Inc.
- USM COAM
- Waggoner Engineering Inc.
- Wiseman Technologies Inc.
- WorldWinds Inc.

Bldg. 1103 to become Center of Excellence

Over the past decade, Mississippi has focused diligently on posturing itself as a national leader in the Geospatial technologies industry. MsET is not exempt from following this example. In February 2004, State Representative Mark Formby of District 108 filed a resolution that, if passed, will designate Building 1103 as a Center of Excellence in Geospatial Technologies. The designation would facilitate rapid development of Geospatial technologies for MsET, according to Greg Hinkebein, MsET president.

Building 1103 at Stennis, which is a State partnership building, is qualified for this designation due to

the fact that more than 70 percent of its space is devoted to research and commercialization in Geospatial technologies. In addition to being the home of MsET, Building 1103 also houses 4 universities, 2 nonprofit corporations and 22 companies. Additionally, the Center of Higher Learning Visualization Center, also located in Building 1103 opened in August 2003. In combination with the efforts of NASA, the U.S. Navy and other federal organizations at Stennis, Building 1103 can be considered a world-class facility for the commercialization of Geospatial technologies in Mississippi.

NVision receives Phase II SBIR

NVision Solutions, Inc., was awarded a NASA Stennis Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase II contract to develop an on-line capability to access and manipulate remotely sensed data and download the derivative products.

NVision is a small, woman-owned, minority firm in the MsET incubator that specializes in advanced Geospatial solutions. "NVision is a great model for growing a company into a successful venture," said Charlie Beasley, MsET vice president. "NVision has become one of the most respected organizations in our program. There is no doubt that NASA has chosen wisely in its selection for this contract."

The technology developed under this SBIR has the potential to speed up and simplify the processing of remotely sensed images. With no plug-ins or downloads needed, users can



The NVision team, from left: Kevin Bupp, Chuck Parker, Suzette Arca, Don Peyton, Socorro Harvey, Craig Harvey and Joel Lawhead.

access remote sensing data over a Web site, process the data and provide the information to other software programs for data analysis. The program provides a way for specific, well-defined sets of products to be generated by casual users with very little knowledge of remote sensing. It also allows advanced users to customize products and perform operations from any location where Internet access is available. NVision was the only company

from Mississippi and Louisiana chosen to continue development of its Phase I project.

"The ability to interface with NASA and other federal agencies on a daily basis has been critical to our success," said Socorro Harvey, president and CEO of NVision Solutions. "The support we have received from MsET has been phenomenal and in as much as our technology is an enabling technology, MsET has helped enable our existence at Stennis."

MsET seminar series attracting Stennis and local audience

At the onset of 2004, MsET began sponsoring a learning-focused seminar series as part of the services the organization offers its client companies. The monthly series allow the companies to serve as hosts while MsET stays in the background to take care of the logistics.

The seminars attract mostly a Stennis and local audience and allow participants to learn from experts about a particular technology topic. The event also allows host companies to market their products and services to a targeted group of potential customers or partners.

The first seminar, held January 21, was hosted by Diamond Data Systems of Mississippi, an

Information Technology and Geospatial company. Titled "Optimal Storage Architecture and Design for Data Security," it attracted about 15 companies.

Mississippi State University GeoResources Institute sponsored the second seminar on February 18 to provide an overview of its program.

The third seminar will be hosted by 3001, Inc., and is scheduled for April. 3001, Inc., is a surveying, mapping, and GIS company with a focus on acquiring and processing spatial data through many different creative processes. The topic of this seminar will be on potential contract opportunities.

To find out more about future seminars, contact MsET at (800) 746-4699.

MsET key player in Tech Council

MsET has played a key role in the development of a networking organization geared toward expanding Mississippi's technology industry into a competitor in the global marketplace. The Mississippi Gulf Coast Technology Council was founded in 2003 by about 85 business people with the vision of pooling the available resources of the Gulf Coast's technology industry.

The Technology Council serves as a network between business, government, education, venture capital and outside organizations. Members are given access to support, marketing, advice, training and information designed to enhance their business.

Greg Hinkebein, the President and CEO of MsET, serves as the Tech Council Steering Committee Treasurer and has worked closely with founding members to get the organization off the ground. MsET also serves as one of the sponsors. The Council is expected to have at least 100 businesses as members by 2005.

Tech Bits

- MsET welcomed its newest company Science and Technology Corp. (STC) in September 2003. STC is a federal support contractor that is providing remote sensing services to NASA.
- 3001, Inc., received ISO 9001:2000 certification in February for the processing of data for hydrographic, topographic, Lidar and GPS surveys, digital mapping, photogrammetry, orthophoto production and Geographic Information Systems. The certification was awarded by BVQi, Inc., and is valid through December 2006.
- In the fall of 2003, Digital Quest opened its GIS/RS Spatial Technology Training Laboratory in Building 9313 at Stennis. Focused classes range from Homeland Security to Law Enforcement to Economic Development. For more information about classes, e-mail eddieh@digitalquest.com or kramer3@bellsouth.net.
- In association with MsET, Concurrent Technologies Corp., is writing a proposal for an Indefinite Demand, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract that would allow all federal agencies access to MsET companies.
- MsET participated in the GeoIntel Conference and Rosettex/National Technology Alliance meeting October 2003 in New Orleans.

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system to conduct shallow-water benthic habitat mapping, environmental monitoring and coral reef mapping.

Dr. Grady Tuell, managing director of Optech International, said the company's establishment in the United States through the

MsET technology incubator has proved invaluable to its rapid success. He also praised the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission for its assistance by providing a county-owned building with a long-term build-to-suit lease.

The Mississippi Enterprise for Technology, Inc., (MsET) at NASA's Stennis Space Center is a joint effort of the Mississippi Development Authority, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Mississippi institutions of higher learning. All contents of this newsletter are approved by Greg Hinkebein, MsET president and CEO, and Charlie Beasley, MsET vice president. The MsET is located at:

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