



The initial plans for the Stennis Technology Park include four buildings that will house mature high-tech companies from all over the world. The above design is compliments of DreamTech.

## Technology Park becomes reality with ground breaking ceremony

More than 40 years of dreams became a reality on Friday, May 28 at the official ground breaking of the Stennis Technology Park.

The Park site is located at the intersection of Highway 603 and I-10 in Hancock County, MS, and encompasses approximately 1,000 acres of privately owned land. The land is owned by a regional group of investors, Hancock County Development LLC.

Currently, only 50 acres for the first phase of construction have been cleared and excavated. This phase includes a 20,000-square-foot building with access to water systems, highways, the Stennis International Airport and Stennis Space Center.

Upon completion, the Technology Park will boast four

## State recognizes 1103 designation

After almost 30 years of efforts to establish Building 1103 at Stennis into a quality facility, the State of Mississippi has officially recognized it as a Center of Excellence in Geospatial Technologies. House Concurrent Resolution No. 85 was signed and adopted on April 7, 2004. The resolution “commend(s) excellence in outstanding techno-

## Message from the President & CEO



Dear friends,

**A**s you can see, the newsletter for August 2004 is somewhat larger than the previous MsET newsletters. This is because several important events have occurred in the development of technology at MsET and Stennis Space Center. The most important one is the ground breaking for the Stennis Technology Park, which took place on May 28, 2004. As related in the headline article, this Technology

Park has been in the discussion stages since the days of Werner Von Braun. We are happy to say that the Technology Park will now become a reality.

In addition, MsET has graduated four companies from our technology incubator. This is one of the largest graduating classes for MsET in the last five years. These four companies work in the development of technologies that include remote sensing, bathymetry and computer hardware. We are proud to assist such a diverse group of companies in their business growth.

Finally, MsET has reached a milestone in starting its 10th year of operation in 2004. On September 1, we will celebrate the birthday of the company by holding a full day of activities at Casino Magic in Bay St. Louis, MS. These activities will highlight the growing development of new technologies and new businesses at the Stennis Space Center.

We thank you again for your support of this most important program for the State of Mississippi. I hope you will continue to read about the growth of technology and new technology companies, both in South Mississippi as well as in other parts of our state.

Sincerely,

B. Greg Hinkebein

## MsET has impact of \$2.8M in State

In 2003, MsET had a total economic impact of \$2.8M on the State of Mississippi, a 14.5 percent increase compared to its 2002 report.

During this period, the organization also saw a 33 percent increase in support funding, leveraging approximately \$766,000 in industry dollars and \$50,000 in federal dollars against the \$123,000 invested by the State through the Mississippi Development Authority and the \$205,000 by the Enterprise for Innovative Geospatial Solutions.

This investment is estimated to have returned approximately \$367,000 in sales and income tax to the State's general fund based on more than \$6M in payroll generated by the MsET and its tenants. Of this, the program generated almost \$202,000 in indirect sales tax. These numbers were adjusted from both the 2002 and 2003 reports to reflect only the money that is remaining in Mississippi. Currently, 34 percent of MsET tenant company employees live outside of the state.

During this time period, MsET tenant companies generated total revenues of almost \$14M, which includes \$12M in sales and \$1.5M in grants. Total tenant sales were up 20 percent for the reporting period. Of the total sales tax collected, more than \$36,000 was diverted back into the local economy, which primarily consists of Harrison, Hancock and Pearl River Counties in South Mississippi.

## Incubator graduates its largest class

With the goal of the MsET Business Incubator to provide three years of service to high-tech, start-up companies, the organization is proud to graduate one of its largest classes in the last five years. Four companies have gone on to become self-sustaining.

Optech International moved its operations to the Stennis Technology Park's building at the Stennis Airport. Optech will 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.

InTime Inc., which provides crop input management services through prescription farming maps, has moved operations to its home office in Cleveland, MS.

Omni Technologies Inc., a consulting engineering firm that specializes in electronic hardware, sensor and software design, has stayed on as an MsET tenant company at Stennis Space Center. Ocean Technologies, LLC, which delivers individualized real-time oceanographic information for specialized interests, has moved operations to a new office in Pass Christian, MS.

# Breaking Ground

## Highlights from the Technology Park Ground Breaking Ceremony



Photo by Melissa Holcomb, Holcomb Photography

**Tech Park developer Rodney Pilot**



Photo by Melissa Holcomb, Holcomb Photography

**From left, Hal Walters, Greg Hinkebein and Rodney Pilot**



Photo by Melissa Holcomb, Holcomb Photography

**From left, Clay Williams, Greg Hinkebein, Bill McGlathery, Lisa Coward, Hal Walters, Dr. Myles Jones, Rusty Miller and Rodney Pilot**



**Top, Bill McGlathery, and right, Greg Hinkebein, both with ceremony attendees**



Photos by Melissa Holcomb, Holcomb Photography



Photo by Melissa Holcomb, Holcomb Photography

**From left, Hal Walters, Robbie Maxwell and Clay Williams**



Photo by Staci C. Kramer, MarCOM Resources

**Greg Hinkebein speaking at the post-ceremony luncheon**



Photo by Staci C. Kramer, MarCOM Resources

**Other attendees at the post-ceremony luncheon**

## Initial Park design includes four buildings

Now that the Stennis Technology Park is past the concept stage and on its way to becoming a reality, developer Rodney Pilot of Mobile, AL, is busy constructing the first phase of the Park.

Pilot's initial plans for the Park include four buildings to serve as home for mature, high-tech companies as well as for Stennis Business Incubator graduates (See photo on Page 1). However, the final vision for the Technology Park includes opportunities for companies to lease land for further development and expansion. The Technology Park's development is being spearheaded by a local group of

investors, Hancock County Development LLC, of Hancock County, MS.

In the meantime, Phase I construction is underway. The first 20,000-square-foot building is scheduled for completion around the end of 2004.

"The office park would be the first part of what we envision as a widening circle of technology companies that do business with Stennis," Pilot said. "We see this as a long-term investment for the County and for Stennis. We plan on working with Stennis and Hancock County to bring high technology to the Mississippi Gulf Coast."

## MsET rents space in Park

The Mississippi Enterprise for Technology rented the final 1,500 square feet of office space in the first completed building at the Stennis Technology Park. It is the fourth and final tenant to rent space in this building, which is owned by the Hancock County Port & Harbor Commission. While associated with the soon-to-be-constructed Technology Park, the building is actually located at the Stennis International Airport just North of the Technology Park site on Highway 603 in Hancock County, MS.

MsET is currently in negotiations with client companies to occupy this space. If these negotiations go well, the companies will join another former MsET tenant as a Stennis Technology Park resident. In April 2004, Optech International was the first to move its operations to this building. The final two occupants are the United States



**Response to available office space in the Technology Park building located at the Stennis International Airport was so great that developers are considering additional wings on the building.**

Navy and the Army Corps of Engineers, which are joined through a consortium of federal agencies and corporate experts in a hydrographic surveying venture called the Joint Lidar Bathymetry Technical Center of Expertise (JALBTCX).

Both Optech and JALBTCX located in the building in early 2004 to support a \$10M advanced laser bathymeter project called CHARTS.

The full 10,000-square-feet of office space was rented by these four organizations before the building's construction was complete in early Spring 2004. The demand for office space such as this has its developers contemplating additional wings on each side of the building.

JALBTCX hosted its official ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday, Aug. 13 with Mississippi Congressman Gene Taylor serving as the keynote speaker.

## MsET to celebrate its 10th anniversary with Trade Show

It is hard to believe that a decade has passed, but the Mississippi Enterprise for Technology (MsET) is preparing to celebrate its 10th year in existence at Stennis Space Center. The organization is planning a trade show to commemorate its establishment and to show off its successes.

MsET will hold a full day of anniversary activities on September 1 at Casino Magic in Bay St. Louis, MS. Festivities will begin with a live broadcast of the Super Dave and Donna Morning Show from Coast 102FM radio station. Current business incubator companies and other tenant companies will have the opportunity to display their technologies and services in the exhibit area. The event will conclude with an evening reception.



MsET is a joint effort of the Mississippi Development Authority, NASA and Mississippi institutions of higher learning, with the charter of creating high-skill, high-wage jobs in Mississippi. Its resources include Mississippi's colleges and universities, Stennis Space Center and access to other federal laboratories across the United States. MsET has also operated a full-service incubator facility since 1994 to assist fledgling, technology-based companies.

For more information on this event, contact Staci Kramer at [marcomresources@bellsouth.net](mailto:marcomresources@bellsouth.net).

## Tech Park

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buildings that will house multiple high-tech companies from all over the world. "The goal of the Technology Park is to attract fledgling companies, as well as larger companies that spin-off from Stennis Space Center," said Hal Walters, Executive Director of Hancock County Port & Harbor Commission. "The first building is being built on known business prospects. Buildings two, three and four will be built as needed."

The Stennis Technology Park is the culmination of efforts by Hancock County Development LLC, the Port & Harbor Commission, the Hancock County Board of Supervisors, the Mississippi Development Authority and MsET. But the idea of a technology park located just outside of the Stennis buffer zone that caters to high-tech companies is not a

novel idea. NASA's Werner Von Braun had a dream of having an adjacent technology park when he developed the Mississippi Test Operations facility in the 1960s.

"Today, we see that dream finally start to take shape," said Walters at the ground breaking. "The efforts of 40 years ago are paying dividends today."

Walters said the Park's development is a tool for major

economic development in Hancock County, as well as for the State. Mississippi has been losing companies to places like Colorado Springs, CO, Sunnyvale, CA, and San Antonio, TX.

Economic developers in the State recognize this is a natural progression of previous efforts in the area. In 2003, the Port

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## Center of Excellence

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logical centers...which has forged new boundaries, becoming one of the premier centers for geospatial technological advancement in national and international communities."

The basis for the Center of Excellence designation is the

mix of public, private and nonprofit organizations located within the building all focusing efforts on Geospatial technologies, including four universities, two nonprofit corporations, 22 companies, the Center of Higher Learning Visualization Center and the Enterprise for Innovative Geospatial Solutions.

## Tech Park

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& Harbor Commission built a 10,000-square-foot building at the Stennis International Airport, just North on Highway 603. That building immediately filled its lease space before construction was even complete with companies like Optech International. Optech is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Canadian-based Optech Incorporated, a world-leader in the manufacturing of airborne laser mapping systems.

Commitment to build the Technology Park could not have come at a better time.

“The Stennis Technology Park is the culmination of many years of hard work by a number of people that had a vision for Hancock County,” said Robbie Maxwell, consultant to Hancock County Development LLC. “The Board of Supervisors, the Hancock County Port & Harbor Commission and the economic developers for the State knew if we were to capitalize on the full benefit of Stennis Space Center, we must have the Technology Park.”

## Tech Bits

- MsET is planning its 3rd annual Venture Capital Forum for October 28-29, 2004, at Casino Magic in Bay St. Louis, MS. For more information, contact MsET at (800)746-4699.
- MsET is looking for companies to serve as hosts for its monthly Seminar Series. Please contact Charlie Beasley at (228) 688-2083 if your company is interested in being a host.
- MsET welcomes its newest incubator tenant, Avery Island Technologies, LLC (AIT). AIT is a systems integration and enterprise management service company.
- NVision Solutions, Inc. contracted with St. Tammany Parish (LA) to provide continued development of its Real-time Emergency Action Coordination Tool (REACT) in support of the Parish's Emergency Operations Center. NVision will integrate up to nine real-time water surface elevation gauges to provide real-time flood inundation information for the Decision Support System.
- Radiance Technologies recently increased its capabilities at its Stennis office with the acquisition of 13 people within the Geospatial group formerly under General Dynamics. Radiance Tech addresses for its customers all aspects of geospatial research, development, system integration, operations and analysis.
- Digital Quest's Spatial Technologies and Remote Sensing (S.T.A.R.S.) certification recently became a requirement under the Department of Labor's Geospatial Technical Apprenticeship Program, a pilot program by the University of Southern Mississippi's Geospatial Workforce Development Center. Digital Quest is also hiring an Officer Manager and a Technical Writer position. For more information about these positions, as well as Digital Quest's Fall schedule of GIS/RS training classes, contact Eddie Hanebuth at [eddieh@digitalquest.com](mailto:eddieh@digitalquest.com)

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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