

# NEWS

## From GEORGIA TECH'S ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

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GEORGIA TECH TO OPEN  
FOUR NEW FIELD OFFICES

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ATLANTA, GA -- Businesses with technical problems in Georgia will soon have a better chance than ever to get expert assistance, thanks to an appropriation by the State General Assembly.

Georgia Legislators recently voted to fund Georgia Tech's industrial extension program with an additional \$320,000 per year. This allocation will allow Tech to expand its engineering extension network from eight to 12 field offices, with new locations established in Brunswick, Columbus, Madison and Dublin beginning in July.

Field offices currently exist in Douglas, Savannah, Rome, Augusta, Atlanta, Rome, Macon and Gainesville.

But field office system director Richard Combes of Georgia Tech said, "We've only had the funds for one resident engineer in each office, and they've had to cover multi-county areas single-handedly. With 12 offices instead of eight, the areas each of them serve will be smaller and we expect this to make our system even more efficient than it has been in the past."

Even at reduced levels of service, the field office system has been a highly effective investment for Georgia. For each dollar appropriated for the program by the state, extension engineers

have been able to help small-to-medium-sized companies stimulate \$20 of improved productivity.

The program has been in place at Tech's Engineering Experiment Station since 1961, solving business problems in areas such as product design, material handling, production, quality control, job-related safety and health, and hazardous waste management. Sometimes, field office personnel have been called on to assist in recruiting new industries to Georgia.

Field engineers normally provide short term assistance upon request to companies at no charge. Only in cases of extended aid does Tech find it necessary to ask businesses to pay a portion of the service. Engineers often provide the needed help themselves, but in other instances, they can seek laboratory services and expert assistance from Tech's main campus or help clients find private engineering consultants.

"Our network was the first state productivity program of its kind in the country," says Combes. "And it's been successful enough to be used as a model in efforts to organize a national industrial outreach system in Egypt."

The expansion of the program will strengthen a proven resource for industrial productivity in Georgia.

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