



# University of South Alabama

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

April 26, 2002

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## **USA CREATES TECHNOLOGY PARK; ANNOUNCES FIRST CORPORATE PARTNER**

MOBILE -- The University of South Alabama today announced creation of a new research and technology park that will strengthen the Mobile area economy through academic-corporate partnerships to create and retain high technology jobs.

A national computer software company has signed on as the first partner in the park and within 18 months will move into a new 60,000-square foot operations center that will be home to 130 high-technology jobs, a number expected to rise to 200 within five years.

“One of the most important missions of a modern research university is supporting community economic development and healthy job growth,” USA President Gordon Moulton said in making the announcement.

“Through the USA Research and Technology Park, we will be building partnerships between businesses and our faculty researchers, students, and graduates -- all working together in a University environment to create, attract and retain high-technology jobs for the Mobile area,” Moulton added.

The national computer software firm Mentor Graphics Corporation, based in Oregon and traded on the NASDAQ stock exchange, will be the first corporate partner. It will locate its embedded software division, Accelerated Technology, in the park.

Accelerated Technology (AT), formerly Accelerated Technology Inc. (ATI), was founded in Mobile 12 years ago by USA graduate Neil Henderson and employs 130 people in developing real-time software for use in complex embedded applications. Henderson is now general manager of Accelerated Technology, the Embedded Systems Division of Mentor Graphics.

“Throughout AT’s creation and growth, the University of South Alabama has been a key player in providing faculty research collaboration, employees in the form of USA graduates, and students to work for our company,” said Henderson.

“We are excited that through the USA Research and Technology Park, this relationship will be strengthened, thus reinforcing our company’s long-term commitment to Mobile.”

USA has been contemplating a research park for more than four years. The idea gained momentum 18 months ago in discussions at a Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce community leadership meeting to observe the high-technology economy of Richmond, Va. Chamber and University officials have since continued intensive discussions on how such a park might be created to benefit the Mobile economy.

“One needs only to look to Silicon Valley in California and the Research Triangle in North Carolina to see how universities like USA can provide the quality faculty researchers, academic infrastructure, students, and graduates needed to support creation of clean, high-technology jobs,” said Win Hallett, president of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce.

“This partnership between the University and Mentor Graphics should be a source of pride in our community, and I’m confident it will open more avenues for the University system to continue to be a major player in the economic development arena.”

USA’s Research and Technology Park is expected to support business growth in the area by providing high-tech companies with:

- Access to University faculty and laboratories for problem solving and joint research opportunities.
- A steady stream of highly qualified college graduates.
- Student employees and interns.
- Increased educational opportunities for company employees.
- Business development opportunities through shared location with other high-tech businesses.

The University is expected to benefit through:

- Increased potential for faculty to develop industrial research relationships and funding.
- Retention and recruitment of faculty and students.
- Expanded opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience and greater job opportunities upon graduation.
- Creation of start-up companies and other businesses based on transfer of USA inventions.
- Better coordination with local business assistance offices, incubator resources, and technology networks.

The park is expected to benefit the community by:

- Attracting and retaining clean, sustainable, high-technology jobs for people of all skill levels in emerging fields such as computer software, engineering technology, and biotechnology/biomedicine, especially in relation to USA's new Cancer Institute.
- Improving the region's economic health and tax base through secure industries based on knowledge, not exhaustible resources.
- Providing local technology companies with additional opportunities to expand here, rather than relocate.
- Providing Mobile's brightest students with job opportunities at home, preventing "brain-drain."

The executive committee of the USA Board of Trustees approved the park in a meeting today. The University will build an 80,000-square-foot complex on the northern edge of campus to house corporate partners, who will pay rent to the University through long-term lease partnerships. The University expects to add several corporate partners in the future. The initial phase of the park will encompass 35 acres.

USA's Research and Technology Park will involve all academic areas at the University, with initial emphasis on the University's colleges of Computer and Information Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Founded in 1963, the University of South Alabama has graduated more than 49,000 alumni and currently enrolls 12,400 students. The comprehensive university offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees and a broad range of research and service programs. USA operates three hospitals and a physicians practice through its College of Medicine.

Accelerated Technology, the Embedded Systems Division of Mentor Graphics, is located in Mobile, with sales offices and distributors worldwide. By providing embedded systems developers with a focus on service, well-documented source code and industry leading non-royalty based Real-Time Operating Systems (RTOS) software, AT's RTOS software shortens time-to-market and provides a complete solution for engineers.

Based in Wilsonville, Ore., Mentor Graphics Corporation is a world leader in electronic hardware and software design solutions, providing products, consulting services, and award-winning support for the world's most successful electronics and semiconductor companies. Established in 1981, the company reported revenues over the last 12 months of more than \$600 million and employs approximately 3,100 people nationwide.