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The Research Park Newsletter

Fall 2009

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Greetings!

Fox/Atkins Development, LLC is providing an update on activities in The Research Park at the University of Illinois. If you have any contributions, comments, or questions, please direct them to Allecia Grubb at alleciag@fox-companies.com or call Fox/Atkins Development LLC at (217) 351-1430 x30.

• [Littelfuse to Open New R&D Center at the Research Park in March 2010](#)



Littelfuse, a worldwide leader in developing circuit protection products and solutions, that it will be opening a new research and development center in the Research Park.

Fox/Atkins has broken ground at 2110 South Oak Street for the new 13,500sf facility. Littelfuse will be the sole occupant of the new building, which will house a high-power lab and research staff for the POWR-GARD Products Division. Plans are for the center to open in March 2010 and to be staffed by 22 full-time employees and 3 student interns.

"Establishment of a technical center linked to a top-tier university supports Littelfuse's mission to maintain our leadership position in the circuit protection industry," said Gordon Hunter, Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Littelfuse.

Illinois former Chancellor Richard Herman said the presence of Littelfuse "underscores the importance of the symbiotic relationship between the corporate world and academia. Research partnerships between corporations such as Littelfuse and the university are critical to groundbreaking discoveries that benefit all involved: the company, the university, and, ultimately, the consumer."

About Littelfuse

As the worldwide leader in circuit protection products and solutions with annual sales of \$530.9 million in 2008, the Littelfuse portfolio is backed by industry-leading technical support, design and manufacturing expertise. Littelfuse products are vital components in virtually every product that uses electrical energy, including automobiles, computers, consumer electronics, handheld devices, industrial equipment and telecom/datacom circuits. Littelfuse offers Teccor, Wickmann and Pudenz brand circuit protection products. In addition to its Chicago, Illinois, world headquarters, Littelfuse has sales,

[With New Furniture](#)[Research Park Food Drive - 10/5-10/16](#)[techMix & Fire at Five - 10/29/09](#)[Preferred Parking for Hybrid Cars in the Research Park](#)

Upcoming Programming and Events

Startup Cafe

Date: November 17th

Time: Noon - 1:00pm

Location:

EnterpriseWorks, 60
Hazelwood Drive

Description: Sponsored by EnterpriseWorks and Global Entrepreneurship Week, Startup Cafe will feature keynote speaker Constantine Polychronopoloulos, founder of Bytemobile.

Fire-at-Five

Date: November 20th

Time: 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Location: iCyt Building,
2100 South Oak Street

Description: Sponsored by Fox/Atkins Development, LLC, come out for the fun!

Tech CEO Roundtable

Date: November 30th

Time: 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Location: I Hotel and Conference Center, Quad Room

Description: Sponsored by EnterpriseWorks. The keynote speaker will be Brian Fizzell. The CEO

distribution, manufacturing and engineering facilities in fifteen other countries.

For more information, please visit Littelfuse's web site at www.littelfuse.com.

• Abbott Laboratories Opens its Doors at the Research Park

Abbott, the global health care company devoted to discovering new medicines, new technologies, and new ways to manage health, celebrated the dedication of its new research facility at the Research Park on the University of Illinois campus on October 22nd, 2009.



Abbott will use the facility to research and develop nutritional products for infants through adults and pharmaceutical manufacturing quality. The company, which operates more than 100 facilities worldwide and sells products in more than 130 countries, will initially collaborate with faculty and students in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. The company plans to employ about 10 student interns initially.

"Abbott is pleased to join the Research Park community," says Robert H. Miller, Ph.D., divisional vice president, Nutrition Research & Development and Scientific Affairs, Abbott Nutrition. "A fundamental necessity of our business is to ensure continuous innovation and we look forward to forging a relationship with UIUC and the Division of Nutritional Sciences, as well as other University Schools and Colleges."

Abbott has a long history of collaboration with the University of Illinois in the sciences, in engineering, in business and in nutrition. Nearly 1,000 Illinois graduates currently work for Abbott.

"We are very pleased to welcome Abbott into our Research Park," says Illinois vice chancellor for public engagement Steve Sonka. "Abbott has been a valued partner of the University, and we look forward to expanded engagements through new on-site collaborations with Abbott."

"We welcome Abbott to the vibrant technology community in the Research Park," says Avijit Ghosh, vice president of technology and economic development at Illinois. "The decision speaks to the growing opportunities for university and corporate partnership within the Research Park to help drive new innovations and research with students, corporate employees, and faculty working together."

To learn more about Abbott Labs at Research Park click [Here](#).

• Starfire Industries Graduates from EnterpriseWorks into the Research Park

Roundtable is chaired by David Carroll, CEO of CU Aerospace. RSVP by 11/25/09 at mmorfey@illinois.edu

techMix, Happy Hour for Champaign County Tech Professionals

Date: December 2nd

Time: 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Location: Singleton Law Firm Research Park Office at Strata Building, 2001 South First Street

Description: Sponsored by Singleton Law Firm and the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation. This event will have a free Happy Hour and Appetizers. There will also be a give away including University of Illinois Basketball Tickets! Come meet other companies and have a great time.

Tips for Dealing with Investors and Key Outsiders, EIR Monthly Training Event

Date: December 3rd

Time: 9:00am - Noon

Location:

EnterpriseWorks, 60 Hazelwood Drive, Conference Room 130

Description: Sponsored by EnterpriseWorks. This is a free event aimed at helping tech entrepreneurs prepare for investors. Serra Ventures' Tim Hoerr, and Dennis Beard will be speaking.

Startup Cafe

Date: December 9th

Time: Noon - 1:00pm

Location: EnterpriseWorks Atrium, 60 Hazelwood Drive, Champaign, IL - Research Park.

Description: Sponsored



Starfire Industries LLC specializes in "innovative plasma engineering" across a range of markets, including aerospace/defense, nuclear/homeland security, and

manufacturing/semiconductors. Not many people realize that plasma technologies are ubiquitous across industry, touching nearly every computer chip produced and every satellite flying over the earth. As a result, there are many novel applications waiting to be discovered to improve a product or process.

One of Starfire's core competencies is the ability to take the kernel of an idea to solve a challenging problem, from whiteboard or university lab, and develop a system solution, with a defensible intellectual property position, suitable for hand-off to a Fortune 500 company for marketing, distribution and/or manufacturing. In essence, we bridge the gap from the applied research stage to the industrial prototype stage suitable for beta-level commercial insertion and field testing.

Starfire has leveraged the Small Business Innovative Research program to good success, receiving three Phase II SBIR awards with cost matching investment from commercialization partners and end users. Towards this end, they have worked with the US Army, US Air Force, NASA, Department of Energy and Homeland Security on plasma-related projects, including their flagship technology on fusion neutron generation for industrial radiography, and NDE/NDT materials inspection. Through this leverage Starfire has been able to grow to ten full-time employees and in mid-July Starfire graduated from the EnterpriseWorks facility moving into a 5,000SF new flex space in the Research Park at the Graduation Building, 2109 South Oak Street.

Starfire is continually building its relationship with the University of Illinois, recruiting from its graduating engineer base, providing student opportunities through internships, student thesis and capstone projects, and recently joining the NSF U/ICRC Center for Plasma and Laser-Aided Manufacturing at the College of Engineering.

"We are looking forward to becoming a valued asset to the Research Park Community," says Brian Jurczyk, President.

For more information on Starfire please visit [Starfire Industries](http://StarfireIndustries.com).

• Waterborne Environmental Turns Champaign Field Office into a Satellite Location at the Research Park

Waterborne Environmental, Inc., moved into its new office at 2001 South First Street on August 14th. Waterborne's research involves environmental



by EnterpriseWorks. Quesnell Hartmann, Founder and CEO of EpiWorks will be the keynote speaker.

modeling, including chemical fate and transport, watershed characterization, site-specific modeling and calibration, and statistical and modeling-based analysis. Waterborne performs risk assessment using a variety of different tools and performing both ecological and human health analysis. They analyze risk mitigation techniques, assess impacts on endangered species, and use spatial and temporal techniques to characterize exposure, along with a variety of other models and techniques for risk and vulnerability assessment.



Waterborne also performs field studies such as watershed and ecological monitoring, terrestrial and aquatic field dissipation, national and regional drinking water monitoring, runoff and surface water monitoring and many other types of hands-on studies. In addition to these types of assessments, Waterborne provides training on the various computer systems, assessment models, and equipment used in these types of studies.

Waterborne's staff consists of specialists in fields as diverse as agricultural engineering, civil engineering, biology, ecotoxicology, geography, internet application development, soil physics, statistics, and geostatistics.

For Waterborne, headquartered in Leesburg, Virginia, this move signifies a shift for the Champaign branch from being a mere field office to being a major satellite office. The move nearly doubles the size of the office space available, and adds much-needed conference and storage rooms that will help improve field operations as well as client interactions. In addition, Waterborne hopes to strengthen its ties with the University of Illinois and build associations with other up-and-coming research organizations. What started in 1993 as a very small company with a handful of employees, has grown tenfold since its inception. Using state-of-the-art technology, Waterborne has handled hundreds of projects over the years and has come to be considered a world leader in agrochemical fate assessment.

Learn more about Waterborne Environmental on their website, <http://www.waterborne-env.com>, or drop by their office and pick up an information packet.

- **Pearson Digital Learning Working on NovaNET at the Research Park**



Pearson Digital Learning moved into the Gateway Building at 1800 South Oak Street this Fall. Pearson software engineers in Champaign will be working on NovaNET, a Pearson product based on the University of Illinois Plato product that was developed as an online learning tool to assist students in grades 6-12. The system delivers research and provides interactive curriculum and student assessment. The system can be used effectively for high school preparation. Additionally, students in high school can earn credits toward Graduation, utilizing this system. Despite the typical ways this system can function it also has been successful in other avenues. The program has added increased success in distance learning and virtual schooling. Through this adaptable alternative

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learning program Pearson hopes to thrive at the University of Illinois Research Park.

To learn more please visit pearsondigital.com.

• New Companies Move into the Z3 Building

The Z3 Building at 2021 South First Street welcomed three small companies into their building this Fall including Serra Ventures together with Open Prairie Ventures, and D&E Technical.



Serra Ventures, Inc. was founded in 1998 by Tim Hoerr to offer professional advisory services in business strategy, capital formation, transitional executive leadership, and organization development. The firm specializes in high technology enterprises, but works frequently with middle market organizations representing a variety of products and markets.

Open Prairie Ventures is an early-stage venture capital firm investing in promising IT, wireless communication, and life science technology companies. Open Prairie applies both its capital and team's expertise to focus on companies with efficient capital usage and disruptive technologies.

D&E Technical offers crisis and consequence management development services focusing on all aspects of emergency operations management with a special emphasis on crises simulations to test and tune both contingency planning as well as training to meet real-work conditions.

For more information please stop by their offices at 2021 South First Street.

• State Farm Research & Development Center

State Farm moved into its new expansion at 2001 South First Street in August 2009. The move nearly doubled State Farm's space, making room for more full-time employees and interns to work on research and development projects on behalf of the Bloomington, IL-based company.



The company's presence in Research Park this fall includes approximately 20 full-time employees, 105 full- and part-time external associates, and 85 interns who do work in the areas of IT, actuary, and strategic research. An expanded focus to include the development of prototype, experimental, and production software applications inspired the company to rename their operation in the Research Park to the State Farm Research & Development

Center.

State Farm will celebrate its fifth anniversary at The Research Park in January 2010. To learn more please visit [State Farm](#).

- **Decision Support Finds a New Home in the Gateway Building**

Decision Support, a University of Illinois entity that is part of University Administration, and a long time tenant of The Research Park has moved to their new suite in the Gateway Building.

"The transition has been smooth and everyone is pleased with the space and perks of residing in the Gateway Building, says Andrea Ballinger, Assistant Vice President."



Decision Support is a customer service unit for the entire University (Urbana, Chicago, and Springfield campuses) with a focus on data warehousing, business intelligence, and information management. They manage the University's data warehouse and help people use it. Additionally, they also manage the EDDIE/Business Objects portal. Decision Support's mission is to support customers in the University's colleges and departments, in their management, planning and strategic decision-making, by supplying relevant and timely information solutions and data services. They accomplish this mission through excellence in data warehousing and business intelligence practices, striving to be an industry leader among higher education institutions.

Decision Support has grown a lot since their inception in 2000. To check out more about their work and where they are headed next follow this link: [Decision Support](#).

- **Solar Decathlon House Featured at the I Hotel**

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon was held a few weeks ago. The University of Illinois took second place in this competition! Team Germany, who won by a small margin had a budget far

greater than that of U of I. Despite the limited resources Team Illinois still managed to take second overall and won three of the ten categories, including Appliances, Entertainment, and Hot Water. It also placed second in three additional categories, including Lighting, Net-Energy, and Thermal Comfort.



The task was to create a house based on solar energy and the University of Illinois met the challenge. After two years of work the U of I submitted its "Gable House", which is described as a "passive home". This means that

the house uses 90% less energy than typical home construction. This is made possible due to the home's heavy focus on insulation in conjunction with solar power and energy efficient appliances, claims FDC's own Tim Moran.

The "Gable Home" traveled back to Champaign and has been placed just south of the I Hotel parking lot. If you would like to tour the "Gable Home," please contact Tim Moran at tmoran@fox-companies.com to schedule a tour, or for more information and pictures click [Here!](#)

- **High Performance Computing Conference: 10/19-10/20**

The first annual HPC 360^o Conference, "Upgrade Your Perspective", was held on October 19th and 20th at the I Hotel and Conference Center. The event was a highly successful with over 150 attendees from companies across the



country. The conference consisted of an evening reception and technology showcase from conference sponsors, followed by presentations demonstrating the many benefits of using High Performance Computing (HPC) in different market verticals. Presentations were given by many notable speakers from companies such as Dana Automotive, L&L Products, Nimbis Systems, Ernst & Young, Wolfram Research, iCyt, Extreme Networks, Microsoft, and the Research Triangle Institute, giving insight into the importance of cluster-based computing in modern business. The much anticipated keynote presentation was given by Dr. Cynthia McIntyre with the Council on Competitiveness and Dr. Reza Rooholamini with Dell. The conference concluded with a HPC panel discussion which provided a great resource to all in attendance. Brian Kucic, a sponsor of the event from R-Systems, had this to say about the event, "It was a pleasure working with the FDC and the I Hotel staff in organizing this conference in less than seven weeks. We had an excellent turnout and I continue to receive positive feedback from customers, vendors and partners who attended the event"! If you were unable to attend this year's HPC 360^o Conference and would like to learn more about HPC for your business check out [HPC Blog](#). Be on the look out for the next HPC 360^o Conference tentatively scheduled for next September!

- **2009 Research Park Outstanding Interns**



This Summer, the Research Park celebrated their outstanding interns at a picnic and awards ceremony held at the Gateway Building, 1800 South Oak Street. Five students were awarded for their hard work and dedication as interns at the Research

Park over the past year. This year's winners included Maryline Penedo (State Farm Research Center), Abhishek Verma (Yahoo), Choonghwan Lee (HDF Group), Fred Sollberger (ADM), and Brad Derickson (Caterpillar). The interns and other Research Park staff enjoyed a fun filled evening with food, games, and music to celebrate the hard work that was accomplished over the past year. Please see a quick synopsis of each intern winner below.

Maryline Penedo from State Farm Research Center

Maryline is a Fulbright scholar in Economics at the University of Illinois. Maryline reports on economics and econometrics for a wide audience at State Farm. Her reports help the decision makers at State Farm better understand not only the current state of the economy, but also immediate and potential impacts on State Farm.

Abhishek Verma from Yahoo!

In 2008, Yahoo, Intel, and HP partnered with UIUC to create a global, multi-data center, open source test bed for the advancement of cloud computing research. As a PhD student Abhishek joined Yahoo in the Research Park to work on one of the cloud computing testbed research teams and played the role of a key contributor on one of these projects.

Choonghwan Lee from The HDF Group

Choonghwan has been working to support the easy use of the HDF technology for NASA Earth Science applications. During his internships he has successfully completed several challenging tasks. In fact, one software tool implemented by Choonghwan is nominated for the Software Reuse Peer Recognition Award provided by NASA Earth Science Data Systems Software Reuse Working Group.

Fred Sollberger from the ADM Bioenergy Modeling Center

Fred is a Chemical Engineering student who has worked for ADM to review and model the most relevant open source cases in literature for second generation biofuels production. Fred evaluated the differences in operating conditions and performance that can be obtained when employing real feed compositions after using in-house data. His work helps determine the most relevant design features for a large scale reactor at an early stage of development. These findings will be instrumental in current in-house developments at ADM for second generation biofuels production.

Brad Derickson from the Caterpillar Simulation Center

Brad is a graduate student studying Mechanical Engineering and working at the CSC part time during the school year and full time during the summer. He works as a part of the Structural Dynamics Team and learned the processes very quickly. When project deadlines are tight, he has put in the extra hours necessary to keep things on schedule. His accomplishments have far exceeded what is typically expected for a first year intern.

- **Prairie Rivers and Fox Development Corporation Infiltrate Stormwater**

Fox Development Corporation (FDC) and Prairie Rivers Network (PRN) recently worked together to help stop polluted rain fall and snow melt runoff from dumping into rivers and lakes. Urban storm water is heavily polluted and in highly developed areas, damaging waterways can be a big concern.



Two projects were taken on by FDC and PRN this summer. The first project was a grassy swale in the Research Park behind Chesterbrook Academy. Grass was removed in the area and the soil was blended with compost to increase water infiltration. The soil was topped with gravel behind the Academy making the area more pleasing to the eye and environmentally friendly.

Additional green infrastructure was added at the iHotel and Conference Center, which had a very unattractive, 2 acre detention basin near the facilities. To solve the problem and maintain aesthetics, native species were planted around the area that could handle large amounts of storm water.

Fox Development is proud to be a local leader in green infrastructure and hopes others in the community will follow in their foot steps.

• Meet Our New Interns

David Gorey

David Gorey joined FDC as the Marketing Intern, early this fall. Previously he has worked with the University and has been a direct-mailing intern in Chicago. He has competed in the National Student Advertising Competition which is a highly recognized contest among the marketing community. He remains an active member in the Illinois Chapter of American Advertising Federation and hopes it will give him an edge in the business community. He currently is enrolled at the University of Illinois, in the College of Media, as an Advertising Major.



Timothy Moran

Tim Moran joined Fox Development as a Special Projects Intern. Tim is a graduate student at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, where he is studying in a dual degree program in Architecture and Civil Engineering. Tim is a Teaching Assistant in the School of Architecture, teaching a sophomore level construction section. He is also a Research Assistant in Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering exploring the feasibility of net-zero energy homes. In addition to his studies, Tim served as a project manager for both the 2007 & 2009 Solar Decathlons, a US Department of Energy sponsored University solar powered housing competition.



- **The Second Floor Conference Room at Gateway is Now Open With New Furniture**

The Gateway building located at 1800 South Oak Street has a newly furnished shared conference room. The room can accommodate eight people around the new conference table and phone. New "Generation" chairs with ergonomic seating and lumbar support provides a comfortable and professional meeting environment for any company. To reserve this state-of-the-art conference room please visit [blueplanner](#) or contact Barry Fulton at barryf@fox-companies.com or call (217) 351-1430 Ex: 23.



- **Research Park Food Drive - 10/5-10/16**

Thanks to all that participated in the Eastern Illinois Food Bank's 22nd Annual Food for Families Drive. Fox Development tallied the results:



- **SAIC Building** on 1901 S. First St. brought in an impressive **345** units of food and **\$410** in donations
- **Chesterbrook Academy** on 2001 S. Oak St. donated **109** units of food
- **EnterpriseWorks** on 60 Hazelwood Dr. brought in **85** units of food
- **Z3 Building** on 2021 S. First St. donated **75** units of food
- **iCyt Building** on 2100 S. Oak St. gave **45** units of food
- **State Farm Building** on 2001 S. First St. donated **43** units of food
- **I Building** on 1816 S. Oak St. deposited **42** units of food
- **Gateway building** on 1800 S. Oak St. gave **24** units of food
- **TDFC I Building** on 2109 S. Oak St. deposited **8** units of food

The SAIC building, 1901 S. First St., was the winning Building in donating the most amount of good & money for the third annual food drive event. The building tenants unanimously agreed to donate their Pizza party money to the food drive. Including the pizza money The Research Park brought in a total of **\$660** and **776** items for the food drive. Great Job to everyone who participated and thank you for your generosity! You can learn more about this organization at [Eastern Illinois Foodbank](#).

- **techMix & Fire at Five - 10/29/09**



On October 29th, Fox/Atkins Development, Serra Ventures, and Champaign



County Economic Development Corporation held their highly successful techMix event in conjunction with Fire at Five. The event was held at the Z3 Building to allow Research Park employees to socialize and become familiar with the new Serra Ventures offices at The Z3 Building.

There was an impressive turn out with over a 150 people in attendance. Tim Hoerr, CEO of Serra Ventures as well as many other Research Park employees enjoyed good food, drink, and company. It was a fun time for everyone. Even employees families came out to enjoy the fun.

Keep your eye out for the next techMix and make sure you don't miss this exciting event! For more information about Tim Hoerr and Serra Ventures please visit their website [Here](#).

- **Preferred Parking for Hybrid Cars in the Research Park**

Fox/Atkins Development LLC has added preferred parking spaces for hybrid cars in all parking lots in the Research Park. These parking spaces are designed to serve those tenants who choose to drive alternative-fuel vehicles, and will allow them to park closer to the buildings.



An alternative-fuel or hybrid vehicle is a vehicle that uses two or more distinct power sources to move or utilizes cleaner-burning and renewable power, so it puts little relative strain on the environment. Fox/Atkins would like to encourage environmentally friendly practices and thus provided these hybrid parking spaces to thank those who choose to drive environmentally-friendlier vehicles. If you would like more information about the parking spaces or other sustainable services offered at the Research Park, please contact Allecia Grubb at alleciag@fox-companies.com.

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