

Media Advisory:

The Research Triangle Park, North Carolina (May 28, 2009) – The Research Triangle Park is shining a bright light on the state as a hub of innovative activity by hosting the XXVI International Association of Science Parks (IASP) World Conference, 2009 in Raleigh, NC, June 1-4, 2009.

This year's IASP World Conference will be the largest ever in the organization's history and is being held for the first time in North America. The IASP World Conference is expected to draw 800 industry leaders from around the world, with 52 different countries being represented.

"This year's conference is particularly important," said Rick Weddle, President and CEO of The Research Triangle Park and host of the 2009 IASP World Conference. "The State of North Carolina is home to a plethora of innovation regions and assets, building on the foundation The Research Triangle Park established in the 1950's. As RTP celebrates its 50th anniversary in conjunction with hosting the IASP World Conference, we are excited for the opportunity it provides us to showcase our state's innovative capacity and ability to leverage its various knowledge assets."

Featuring more than 80 speakers and moderators, and over 20 sessions, the Conference program will highlight what the rest of the world is doing to survive the economic crisis and strategically invest in innovation capacity. The theme of the IASP World Conference is "Future Knowledge Ecosystems – The opportunity for science and technology parks, people and places" and examines the importance of research universities and technology-led economic development to create competitive regions.

Conference participants will learn from some of the conference's largest international delegations – the United Kingdom, Spain, Brazil, China, Germany and Canada, as well as from a broad representation of US technology-led regions and research parks—and explore issues such as how to foster global start-ups, how to attract and retain top talent and how to nurture an environment that makes collaborative innovation possible.

"We are very pleased to bring the world's largest gathering of science and technology park managers to Raleigh this year," said Luis Sanz, Director General of the International Association of Science Parks. "The precedence RTP has set as a model of the future of science parks is one we can all learn from and build from. The organization is very excited to connect its community in the United States for the first time at the 2009 IASP World Conference on Science and Technology Parks".

An integral part of the programs is a forecast of the next twenty years of evolution of science and technology parks and regions. This forecast, developed by the Institute for the Future (ITF) in close collaboration with RTP, analyzes three alternative scenarios that indicate how places for research and development may evolve. The report outlines strategic implications for park managers and economic development professionals.

Finally, the IASP World Conference will highlight how the experiment that was anchored by RTP, the largest research park in the US, has changed the Research Triangle region and created an innovation infrastructure that positions the region well – both for future opportunities and also to weather current difficulties. As the national economy lost steam last year, the region continued to attract residents, becoming the fastest-growing metropolitan area in the country. In addition, for the second year in a row, Raleigh has claimed the top spot on Forbes magazine's "Best Places for Business and Careers" list.

For more information on the global event, including program and housing information, please visit <http://www.iasp2009rtp.com/>.

About the International Association of Science Parks

The International Association of Science Parks is the worldwide network of Science and Technology Parks. IASP connects Science Park professionals from across the globe and provide services that drive growth and effectiveness for their members. Organization members enhance the competitiveness of companies and entrepreneurs of their cities and regions, and contribute to global economic development through innovation, entrepreneurship, and the transfer of knowledge and technology.

About The Research Triangle Park

One of the oldest and largest science parks in North America, The Research Triangle Park (RTP) is a 7,000 acre development that is home to more than 170 companies employing over 42,000 full-time knowledge workers and an estimated 10,000 contract employees. Located at the core of the Raleigh-Durham-Cary CSA (Combined Statistical Area), RTP is a globally prominent high-technology research and development center that serves as an economic driver for the region. RTP is home to a broad spectrum of companies -- from Fortune 100 multinational research and development operations, to university spin-outs and start-up operations. In addition, a number of U.S. federal agencies have a presence in the Park.

About the Institute for the Future

The Institute for the Future (IFF) is an independent nonprofit research group. IFF works with organizations of all kinds to help them make better, more informed decisions about the future. IFF provides the foresight to create insights that lead to action. The Institute is based in California's Silicon Valley, in a community at the crossroads of technological innovation, social experimentation, and global interchange. Founded in 1968 by a group of former RAND Corporation researchers with a grant from the Ford Foundation to take leading-edge research methodologies into the public and business sectors, IFF is committed to building the future by understanding it deeply.

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