

Professional and Technical Support

Georgia offers a range of professional and technical support to companies in the plastics and rubber industry through various research centers and labs, as well as local professional groups and trade associations.

Academic and Research Resources:

The Georgia Research Alliance (GRA): The GRA is a partnership between Georgia's research universities, the businesses community and state government. Since 1990 the state of Georgia has invested \$400 million through the GRA in research and development at its six member universities. This investment has been instrumental in bringing an additional \$2 billion in federal and private funding for research programs. University members include the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, the Medical College of Georgia, Emory University, Clark Atlanta University, and Georgia State University. GRA has helped create an atmosphere where the world's prominent researchers, best students and private research organizations can thrive.

Centers at Georgia Tech: Georgia Tech offers a wide range of research centers and laboratories to companies in the plastics and rubber industry, including the Manufacturing Research Center, the Center for Polymer Processing, and the Composites Education Research Center, among others.

Manufacturing Research Center <http://www.marc.gatech.edu>

Opened in 1991, the Manufacturing Research Center (MARC) focuses on enhancing the technology transfer process by facilitating interaction among faculty, students and industrial personnel. Cross-assignments and visits set the stage for development of specific research proposals and projects. Funding may come directly from industry or from government sources. For more information, contact Dr. Steven Danyluk, Director, 404-894-9687.

Polymer Education and Research Center <http://www.che.gatech.edu/perc>

A joint collaboration of several schools, the Polymer Education and Research Center (PERC) focuses on various research areas including fiber formation, conducting polymers, and polymer synthesis. For more information, call 404-894-8480.

Center for Polymer Processing

<http://www.me.gatech.edu/jonathan.colton/cpp.html>

The Center for Polymer Processing (CPP) operates the Polymer Processing Laboratory in the Manufacturing Research Center. This lab conducts research in composites manufacturing and testing, covering the span between polymer synthesis through compounding, prepreg formation to product manufacture, and mechanical and non-destructive testing. For more information on the CPP, please contact Professor Jonathan Colton, 404-894-7407.

Georgia schools offer various research centers and labs with capability to meet the needs of any industry.

Composites Education Research Center <http://www.cerc.gatech.edu>

With the participation of six of Georgia Tech's engineering programs (Aerospace, Civil and Environmental, Chemical, Mechanical, Textile and Fiber, and Materials Engineering), the Composites Education Research Center (CERC) serves as a forum for students, researchers, and industrial users and manufacturers to learn the latest in composite technology. For more information, contact Professor Charles E. Ueng, 404-894-2769.

Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing Institute

<http://rpmimarc.gatech.edu>

Established in 1995, the Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing Institute (RPMI) is involved in activities such as rapid tooling, fabrication of small devices in metals, ceramics, and polymers. For more information, contact Dr. David Rosen, 404-894-9668.

Dynamics Properties Research Lab <http://diva.me.gatech.edu>

The Dynamics Properties Research Lab focuses on the study of material behavior over a wide range of length scales. Among the lab's research interests are granular materials, naval structural sheets, ceramic composites, PZT ceramics, structural composites, zinc oxide nanobelts, shape memory effects, and fractures in ceramics. For more information on this lab, contact Professor Min Zhou, 404-894-3294.

Sustainable Thermal Systems Lab <http://www.me.gatech.edu/stsl>

The Sustainable Thermal Systems Lab (STSL) researches the development of energy efficient thermal systems that have a minimal adverse impact on energy and material resources. These systems include thermally activated space-conditioning systems, high heat flux components, microchannel condensers, and miniaturized absorbers, among others. For more information on STSL, contact Professor Srinivas Garimella, 404-894-7479.

Mechanical Properties Research Lab

<http://www.me.gatech.edu/MPRL/index.html>

The Mechanical Properties Research Lab (MPRL) performs testing of material durability, including fatigue, fracture and deformation. This lab's facilities and equipment include tensile and fatigue test systems, high temperature high vacuum test chamber, long focal length optical microscopes, thermal aging ovens, and image and surface analysis facilities. For more information, contact Professor David L. McDowell, 404-894-5128.

Georgia is home to several chapters of major national professional groups and trade associations.

Professional Groups and Trade Associations:

Georgia is also home to several chapters of major national professional groups and trade associations.

Society of Plastics Engineers <http://www.4spe.org>

With a network of 20,000 members, the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) is dedicated to enhancing professionals' knowledge of emerging technologies in the plastics industry. Its 24 technical divisions and 16 specialty groups further aim to help professionals in their specialized areas. SPE has local and student chapters in most states. Georgia is represented by the [Southern Section](#) and the [Georgia Tech SPE Student Chapter](#). For a contact in Georgia, call 770-509-2440.

Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering <http://www.sampe.org>

An international professional group, the Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering (SAMPE) promotes the development of new technology in the processing of materials such as plastics, metals, and ceramics, among other materials. Atlanta is home to one of its many chapters located worldwide. Members meet on the 4th Monday of every month. For more information contact Dr. Ash B. Thakker, 770-803-3001, or Thomas J. Haulik, 770-442-4242.

Society of Manufacturing Engineers <http://www.sme.org>

The Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) offers its members professional and skill development opportunities through publications, events, and various technical communities. Among these is the plastics, composites, and coating technical community, which is further divided into five technical groups: design for plastics, injection molding, plastics tooling and mold design, composite manufacturing, and finishing processing. There are two chapters located in Georgia: [Atlanta No. 61](#) and [Central Ogeechee Chapter 262](#). For more information on the Atlanta chapter, contact John Morehouse, 404-385-0895. For more information on the Statesboro chapter, contact Phillip Waldrop, 912-681-0772.

Society of the Plastics Industry <http://www.plasticsindustry.org>

One of the most important plastics industry trade associations, the Society of the Plastics Industry (SPI) promotes the development of the plastics industry while communicating the benefits of its products. SPI is divided into [thirteen business units](#), which include the Alliance of Plastic Processors, Film and Bag Federation, and Molders Division, among several others. These business units are comprised of buyers and specialized manufacturers. Georgia is represented by the [Southern Regional Office](#). For more information, contact Richard Sturgis at rsturgis@socplas.org.

American Plastics Council http://www.americanplasticscouncil.org/s_apc/index.asp

The American Plastics Council (APC), a major trade association for the United States plastics industry, advocates unlimited opportunities for plastics and promotes their economic, environmental and societal benefits. APC includes five business units and an affiliated trade association comprised of [APC member companies](#), other industry stakeholders, and customers whose purpose is to address issues specific to their products. Business units include: Alliance(API), Polycarbonate Business Unit, [Polystyrene Packaging Council](#) (PSPC), [Expandable Polystyrene Resin Suppliers Council](#) (ERSC), [Rigid Plastic Packaging Institute](#) (RPPI), and [The Vinyl Institute](#) (VI), which is the affiliated trade association. For a contact in Georgia, call 770-421-2991.