



Robotics P A R K Report

ROBOTICS PARK BOARD

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Workforce Development

Governor Riley Attends September RTP Board Meeting

Alabama Governor Bob Riley, whose vision for a world-class robotics training, research and development center for the state led to the development of the Alabama Robotics Technology Park (RTP), attended the September meeting of the RTP Executive Board held at Calhoun Community College's Decatur campus.

Riley attended the Board's monthly meeting to receive an update on the three-phase, \$71 million project. During the meeting, the Governor was provided with a status report on construction of Phase I of the Park and discussed with the Board plans, issues and challenges facing the development of Phases II and III. While Riley noted that the Park's \$71 million price tag is considerable, he stated that it was a cheap price to "take Alabama to a whole new level. Once it's up and going, it will be a magnet." "This is going to be nationally significant," he added. Riley also stressed to the Board his desire to "move quickly" on the completion of the RTP.

Phase I, the Robotic Maintenance Training Center, is set to be complete by July 2010. Plans are for the first classes in the building to be on Calhoun's fall 2010 class schedule. Funding for this initial phase of the Park has come from the state;



Governor Riley and AIDT Executive Director Ed Castile (right) listen to status report on the RTP.

Calhoun; the cities of Athens and Decatur, Alabama; and Limestone and Morgan counties. During the meeting, it was announced that Wyatt General Contractors of Birmingham won the construction bid for Phase I and has begun work on the project.

The Alabama State Board of Education recently approved the addition of 12,000 square feet to the originally 52,000 square-foot plan for Phase I. The construction changes, which are expected to cost an additional \$2.6 million, will include high-tech underground fiber optics and underground electrical systems needed for the robots to operate. Johnny Green, director of facilities for the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education, stated that original specifications did not



Governor Riley Attends September RTP Board Meeting *continued*

take those needs into account. A 2007 bond issue would pay for the additional construction and furniture for the facility not included in the original proposal, he said.

Riley stated that funding for Phase II, the Advanced Technology Research and Development Center, is nearing finalization. The building's architects are making finishing touches to the design, and a groundbreaking event is planned to take place within the next few months.

Funding sources for Phase III, the Integration and Entrepreneurship Center, are currently being identified.



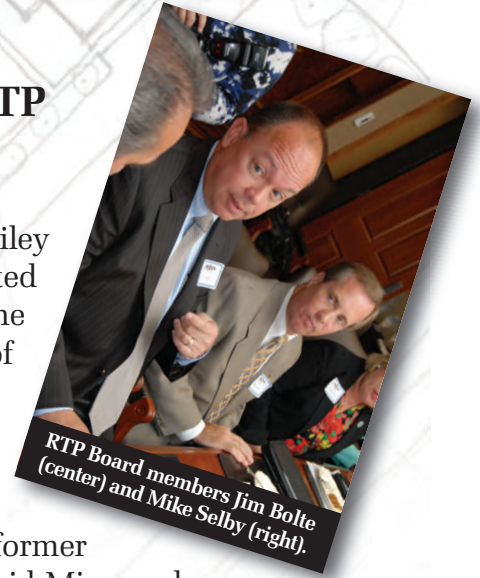
Members of the RTP Executive Board hear comments from Gov. Riley.



RTP Executive Board members Ralph Malone (center) and Jason Putman (right).

Riley Makes Addition to RTP Board

Governor Bob Riley recently appointed Mike Selby as the newest member of the RTP Executive Board. Selby, president of Automatic SMP in Decatur, replaces former Board member David Minor, who left the board due to a job change. Dr. Joe Sparks with Booz, Allen, Hamilton (Huntsville) has been named Board Chair and Jason Putman with Pro-Air Services (Decatur), was appointed Vice-Chair.



RTP Board members Jim Bolte (center) and Mike Selby (right).



COMING SOON!!

A new look for the RTP Website

The RTP website (www.alabamartp.org) is undergoing a slight facelift with new features, updated information on the Alabama Robotics Technology Park, and easier navigation of the site.

www.alabamartp.org