



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm excited to share an update with our UT Research Park community—and just as importantly, to those of you who may be exploring ways to engage with us. Our vision is clear: to build a vibrant, innovation-driven research park and activate the broader "Peninsula Innovation District" as a place where research, industry, and community truly come together.

Today, our tenants and research colleagues are advancing important work, launching new initiatives, and helping position Knoxville and Tennessee as a growing hub for innovation.

A big part of that momentum is the next phase of new buildings now moving into development. These spaces will allow us to welcome more companies, support growing research programs, and create new opportunities for collaboration. They're also central to advancing UT's research mission—helping grow research funding, attract top-tier talent, and continue elevating the university toward preeminent global status.

We're especially excited about an expanded vision for the next phase of the Spark Innovation Center. We are widening the front door for entrepreneurship in the park—supporting founders, connecting ideas to customers, and building a vibrant network of companies, particularly around the energy sector. Spark is accelerating discovery to deployment.

We couldn't do it without the world-class team we're building. Our new team members bring fresh energy, deep expertise, and a shared commitment to execution. They are digging in and ready to make the vision a reality.

We're also grateful for the extended network of stakeholders, partners, and supporters who continue to lean in. Your engagement, collaboration, and belief in this vision are what make progress like this possible. Whether you are moving dirt, mentoring a startup, or pulling another shot of espresso, our team thanks you for the hard work.

If you haven't been out to visit recently—or at all—I'd strongly encourage you to come see it for yourself. Walk the campus, meet the people, and get a feel for the energy that's building here. There's something special taking shape, and we'd love for you to be a part of it.

Stay tuned for next quarter's update.

-Brett Malone

NEW FACES ON THE RESEARCH PARK TEAM

The UT Research Park team continues to grow, strengthening our mission of community, collaboration, and innovation. Together, this expanded team reflects our commitment to creating an environment where ideas and innovation grow.



Bill Malkes Executive Director of Spark

Bill guides Spark Innovation Center's next chapter with a blend of experience, vision, and entrepreneurial support. He will help shape Spark's growth, boost its programming, and expand its impact on early-stage companies.



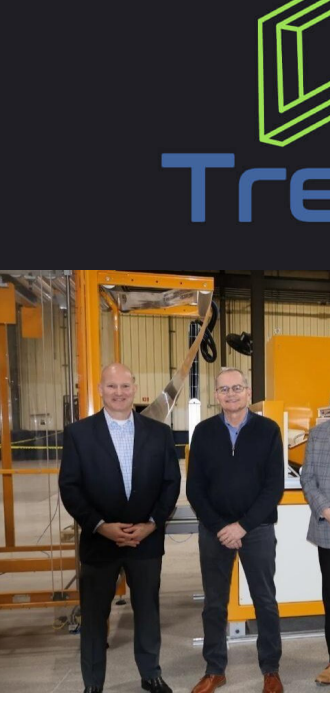
Sarah Boertje Director of Business Operations

Sarah brings financial leadership to the organization, providing budget oversight, strengthening internal systems, and improving business processes to support the Park's continued growth. Her work helps ensure the Research Park can scale sustainably as its mission expands.



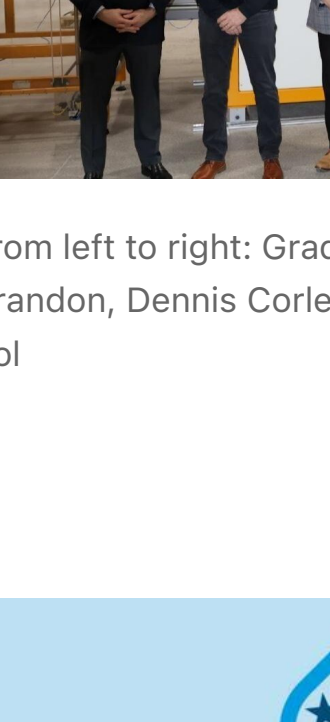
Darcy Rathjen Director of Infrastructure Initiatives

Darcy leads efforts to advance the major projects that define the Park's long-term future. Her expertise will help ensure that development aligns with the needs of our partners and the region's innovation economy.



Olivia Tanner Marketing Coordinator

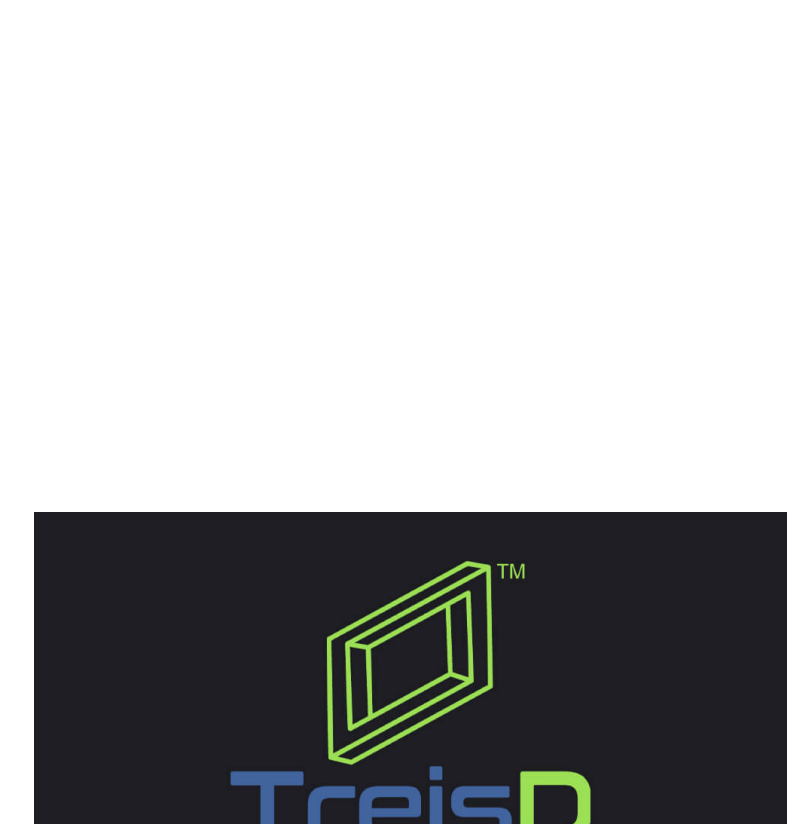
Olivia brings fresh energy to how we tell our story and connect with the community, helping raise awareness of the Park across the region. Her work will also improve how we highlight the impact of our tenants and reach new audiences.



Ashley MacDougall Administrative Operations Intern

Ashley contributes the daily work that keeps our community moving forward, contributing essential coordination and behind-the-scenes support. Her role helps align and support operations across teams and programs.

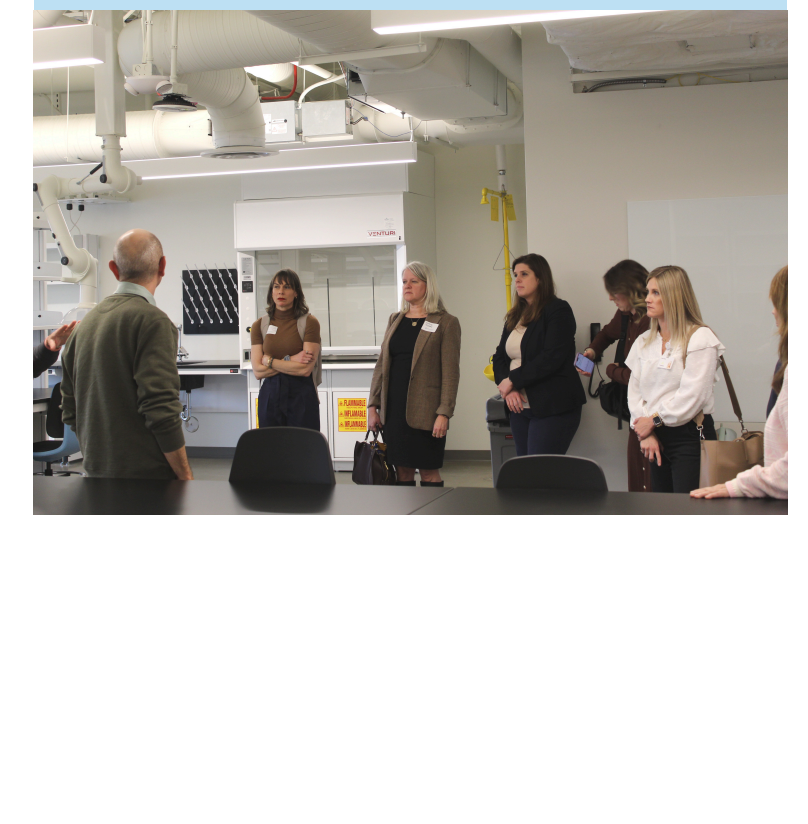
NEWS & TENANT UPDATES



University of Tennessee's Innovation District Will Reshape Campus Boundaries

The Knoxville News Sentinel released an article on March 2nd highlighting how the University of Tennessee is expanding its innovation ecosystem with new research facilities in the Maplehurst and Peninsula districts, supporting work in next-generation computing, quantum technologies, biosciences, and cancer innovation. UTRP will work alongside the University on the Maplehurst and Peninsula Districts, where it will play an active role in shaping these emerging innovation hubs.

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Innovation in Action: TreisD Begins Operations

Headquartered at UT Research Park, TreisD is scaling advanced 3D printing technology designed to combat counterfeiting while creating high-quality jobs in East Tennessee. Backed by strategic investments from local nonprofit financial institution Three Roots Capital, and deep ties to the University of Tennessee, the company's growth reflects how innovation accelerates when bold ideas meet the right talent, infrastructure, and regional support.

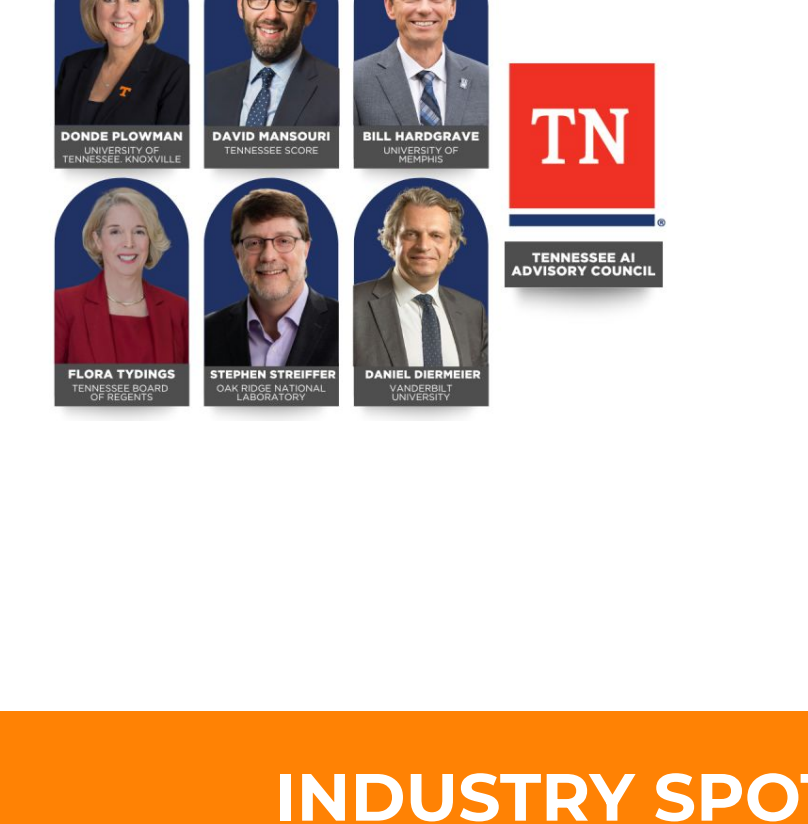
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UTRP's Center for Precision Health Hosts Life Science Tennessee Venture Program

Life Science Tennessee hosted its Venture Program session at Innovation South and UTK's Center for Precision Health, highlighting the region's growing demand for specialized lab space. The facilities were showcased as essential resources for biotech, life science, and deep-tech startups, offering purpose-built labs that remove the burden of building infrastructure independently.

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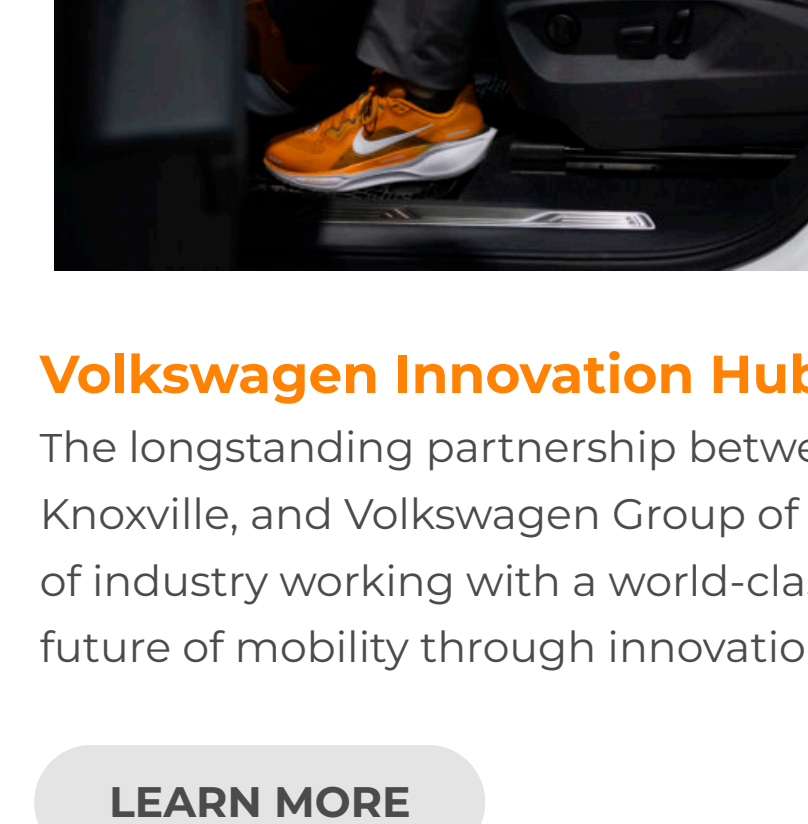
Velocity Coffee Roasters Joins the Park

Velocity Coffee Roasters is officially part of The Park. They're bringing their signature, carefully crafted roasts to the space, and we can't wait for you to experience what they do best.

Stop by their location at 2730 Cherokee Farm Way, Suite 200 between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., or explore their menu and website below.

[PARK MENU](#)

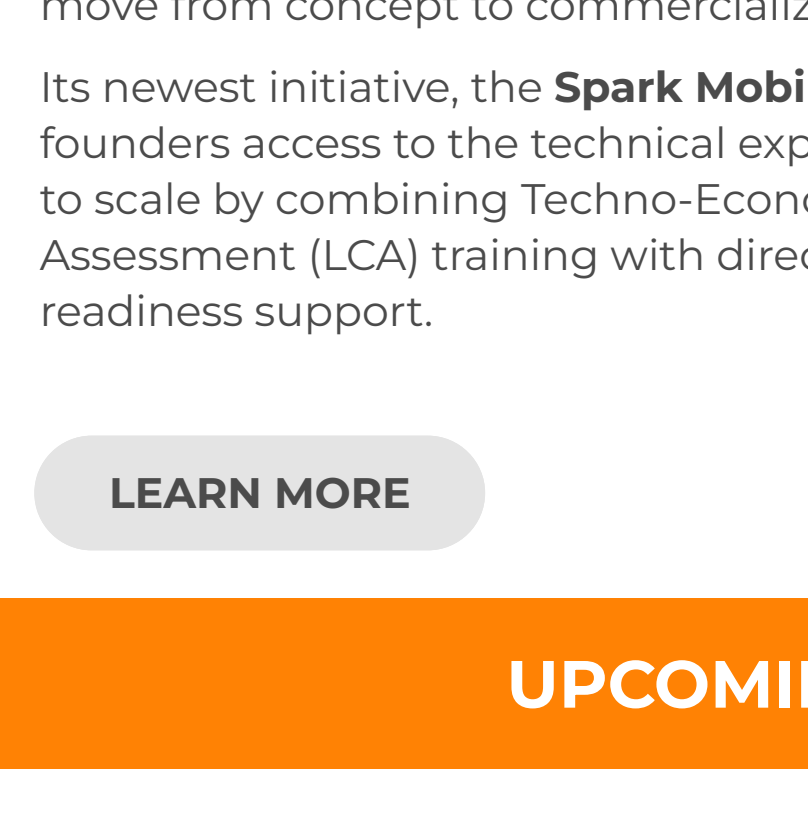
[VISIT WEBSITE](#)



New Day Diagnostics and Daisy Genomics Partner to Advance CRC Detection

Daisy Genomics Inc. and New Day Diagnostics announced a strategic research collaboration focused on cancer diagnostics, launched in partnership with the University of Tennessee and the East Tennessee Health Innovation Alliance. This partnership will advance the development of next-generation tools aimed at transforming the early detection of colorectal cancer.

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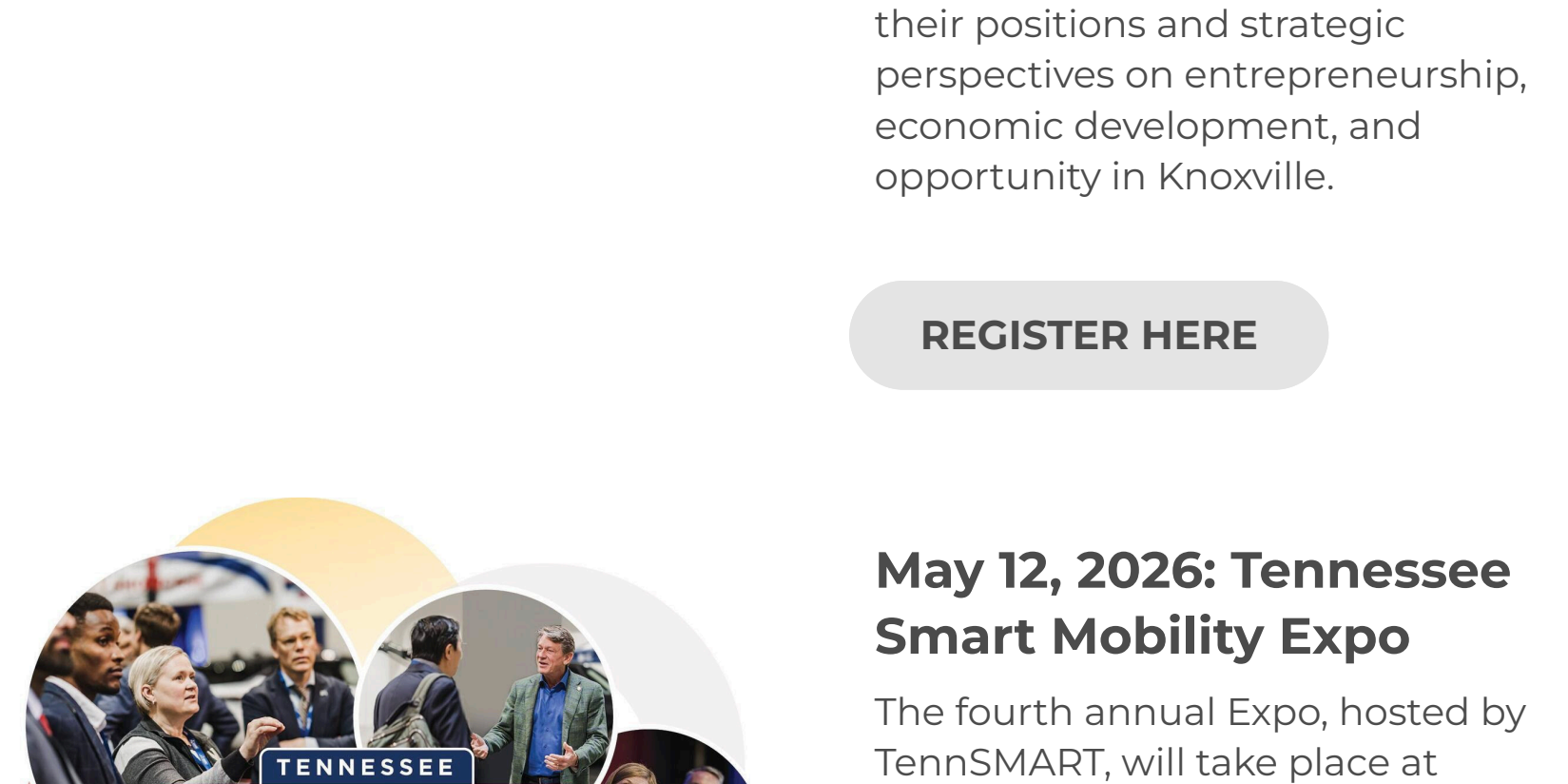


AI Tennessee Summit

The inaugural AI Tennessee Summit is currently convening. This summit brings together leaders from government, industry, and academia to explore how the state can strengthen its role in the national AI landscape. The event is hosted by AI Tennessee, a statewide initiative led by the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in partnership with institutions and organizations across the state.

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INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT: MOBILITY



Volkswagen Innovation Hub

The longstanding partnership between the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Volkswagen Group of America continues to model the value of industry, working with a world-class research institution to drive the future of mobility through innovation.

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Safire

Safire is the defense and electric mobility company turning visions of the future into impactful realities.

In 2025, Safire was awarded a \$4.5 million contract by the U.S. Air Force to develop ruggedized electrified products and systems for the Department of Defense (DoD).

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Spark Innovation Center

The Spark Innovation Center at UT Research Park, led by Executive Director, Bill Malkes, drives entrepreneurship and helps regional technology startups move from concept to commercialization.

Its newest initiative, the **Spark Mobility Lab**, gives early-stage mobility founders access to the technical expertise and economic insights they need to scale by combining Techno-Economic Analysis (TEA) and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) training with direct industry engagement and investor readiness support.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



March 28, 2026: New Day Diagnostics Colorectal Cancer Awareness

Join New Day Diagnostics on March 28th from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. for their Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month event.

Learn from doctors and experts on colon cancer while enjoying time outdoors. All are welcome to attend!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



April 8, 2026: Innov865 Mayoral Forum

Join the candidates vying to become Knox County's next mayor for a mayoral forum at 5 p.m. on April 8 at 121 Tech Hub in Old City.

The mayoral forum is presented by Innov865 Alliance. All four candidates running for Knox County mayor will share a stage to discuss their positions and strategic perspectives on entrepreneurship, economic development, and opportunity in Knoxville.

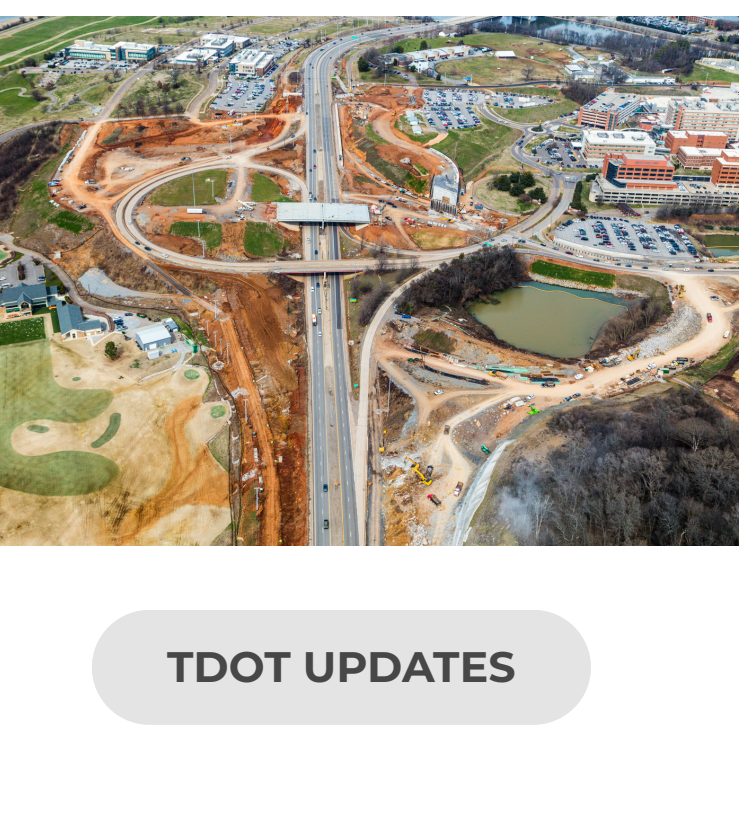
[REGISTER HERE](#)



May 12, 2026: Tennessee Smart Mobility Expo

The fourth annual Expo, hosted by TENSMAST, will take place at GEODIS PARK — home of the Nashville Soccer Club. It's a fresh venue to match the fresh programming, energy, and innovation!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



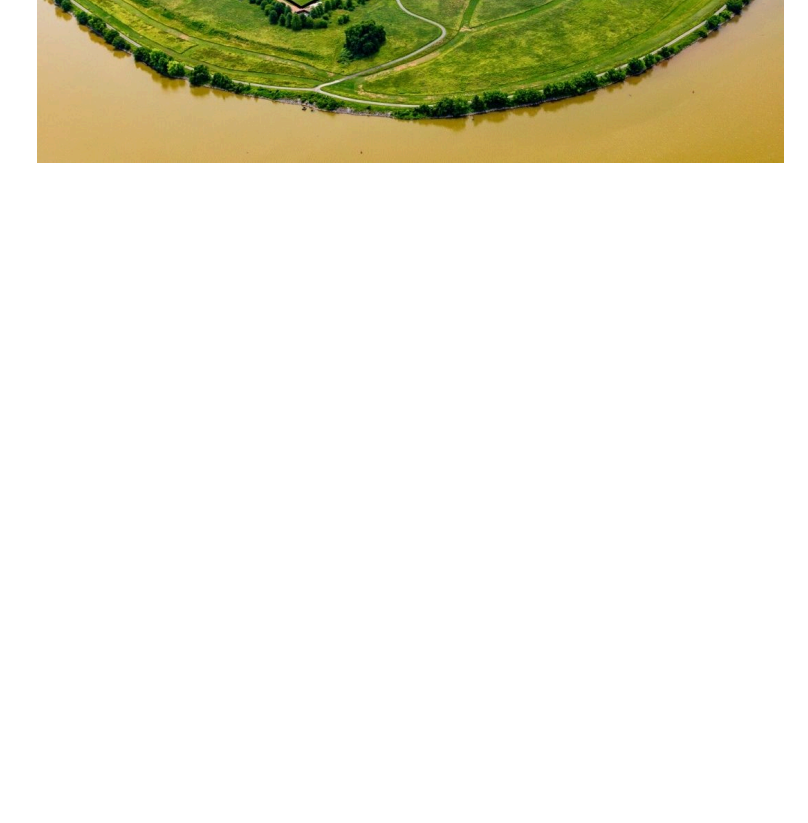
August 4-5, 2026: ETEC's Nuclear Opportunities Workshop

Early registration is now open!

The Nuclear Opportunities Workshop (NOW) is ETEC's premier annual conference. The event highlights developments in fission, fusion, isotopes, environmental management, AI in nuclear, workforce initiatives, and emerging technologies, while offering valuable opportunities to connect with leaders from TVA, the U.S. Department of Energy, and companies of all sizes, along with the next generation of nuclear talent.

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATES



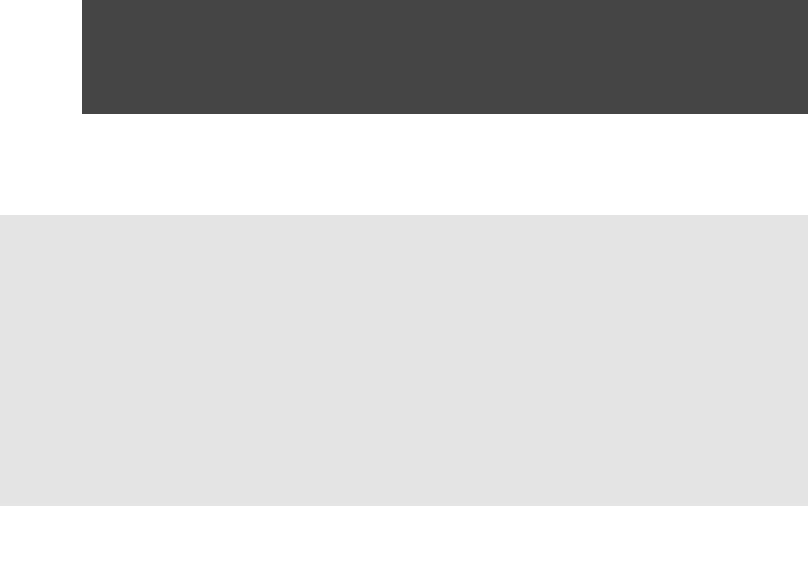
Milestone for TDOT Interchange

The new TDOT overpass designed to link UT Medical Center with UT Research Park has reached an important construction milestone. The structure now connects to both sides of the project, creating an important link between the two locations.

While work continues, this marks a major step towards establishing a direct route that will improve access, collaboration, and strengthen the growing innovation corridor surrounding the university.

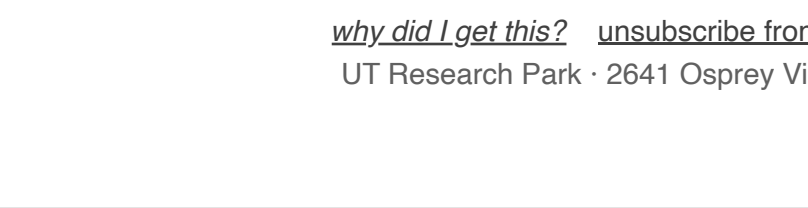
[TDOT UPDATES](#)

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE AVAILABLE



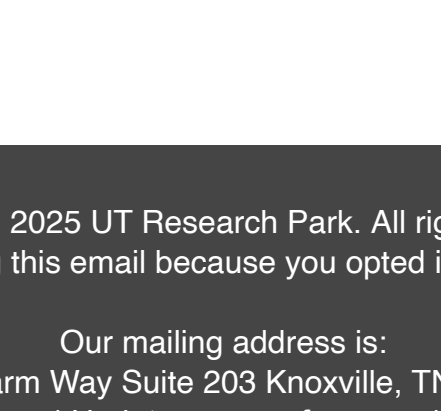
Research Park Startup Lab Space

Discover premium lab space at the UT Research Park, designated for innovative and collaborative startups. Elevate your work in a dynamic environment built to support groundbreaking discoveries. To submit a contact form click [here](#).



Building Space Available

We're excited to share that multiple pad-ready sites are now available across the UT Research Park peninsula, offering a unique opportunity for companies to establish a tailored presence within our growing innovation ecosystem. In parallel, we have new buildings under development that will offer modern, flexible leasing opportunities designed to support research, advanced technology, and collaborative industry partnerships. Whether you're looking to build-to-suit or lease in a purpose-built environment, we'd welcome the opportunity to connect and explore how you can be part of this rapidly growing community. To submit a contact form click [here](#).



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