

# PRESS RELEASE



April 12, 2012

## For Immediate Release

Contact: John Wray  
jwray@brtrc.com  
248.310.7231

### Army's Newest Laboratory Complex Opens at Detroit Arsenal Targeting Energy Security

- Army's Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center hosts grand opening event with government, industry officials
- DOD's unique, eight-in-one facility works to protect Soldiers, benefit Nation

U.S. ARMY DETROIT ARSENAL, WARREN, Mich. – The U.S. Army unveiled its new complex – the Ground Systems Power and Energy Laboratory (GSPEL) – during a grand opening ceremony at the Detroit Arsenal April 11. The eight-labs-in-one GSPEL facility offers numerous testing capabilities and an unmatched combination of resources in a single lab. The GSPEL is part of the Army's Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center's (TARDEC) laboratory system.

The grand opening ceremony included top government and industry leaders – many of whom are or will soon be GSPEL's collaborative partners. GSPEL offers shared access to industry and academia to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas to develop emerging energy technologies and validate ground vehicle systems – research that could also help the Nation achieve energy security goals.

The following are quotes from the official party during the ceremony.

**HON Senator Carl Levin, Mich.:** “The lab that we open here today will be the world's premiere integrated facility for research and testing of ground vehicle power and energy systems. And it is right where it belongs in Michigan, the heart of the local auto industry.”

**HON Senator Debbie Stabenow, Mich.:** “The eight new labs are going to make a real difference for our men and women in uniform by giving them the tools that they need to do the job.... The partnerships involved in this are extraordinary, and are going to benefit not only our troops, but benefit our economy here in Michigan.”

**Honorable Dr. Joseph W. Westphal, Under Secretary of the Army:** “The work done at GSPEL labs will make our Soldiers' loads lighter, reduce their energy requirements, and reduce the number of Soldiers we put into harm's way to supply energy. In other words this facility will not only make us more efficient and save resources, but will save lives in combat as well.”

– more –

**TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN. WARFIGHTER FOCUSED.**



*The Official Party at the Grand Opening Ceremony for the Army's new lab complex poses just seconds before pushing the button to open the GSPEL's doors.*

**Honorable Sharon E. Burke, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy Plans and Programs:** “We all want to make sure that all of the work here gets into the hands of Soldiers. That is our challenge: to make sure we field and widely deploy what you come up with.”

**Honorable Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment:** “[GSPEL] will give our Nation the tools to continue development of these cutting-edge technologies, solutions for our vehicles and solutions for our warfighters. And we will continue, like we did in the Fuel Efficient ground vehicle Demonstrator program, to employ a collaborative effort with industry to support innovation.”

**LTG Raymond V. Mason, Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics:** “Right now, we have hundreds of operating bases and outposts across Afghanistan. Each of those bases requires significant logistics support and, as mentioned earlier, the biggest sustainment category is fuel. About 80-percent of the convoys that are traveling on the roads of Afghanistan right now are carrying fuel. And all of those Soldiers are now exposed as they move in those convoys on those dangerous roads and they’re exposed to improvised explosive devices. We’ve got to reduce that footprint. We’ve got to reduce those convoys and make our Commanders more flexible and more adaptable and cut our energy costs as well.”

**MG Kurt J. Stein, Commander, U.S. Army TACOM LCMC:** “In addition to improving fuel efficiency, this facility will be working hard to reduce fuel consumption, expand our use of renewable and alternative energy, ensure access to sufficient energy supplies, and minimize environmental impacts.”

**Dr. Grace M. Bochenek, Chief Technology Officer, Army Materiel Command:** “This GSPEL Laboratory Complex is less a new beginning and grand opening, and more a bold statement by our Nation’s Army about its role and duty in accelerating energy security. It’s a statement of commitment, of progress, and a vivid symbol of the way we do business in this ground vehicle community.”

**Jennifer Hitchcock, TARDEC Interim Director:** “Many years ago power and energy was a capability that was frankly taken for granted. It wasn’t too long ago that people scratched their heads when we began driving power and energy as a focal point, because energy wasn’t the priority it is today. But thanks to visionary foresight, the right conditions, the right leadership and the countless numbers of dedicated people along the way, we’re here. ... Collaboration is an easy thing to say, but sometimes a tough thing to do. But it is the driving force behind how we do business in this ground vehicle community. Whether it is across government partners, with industry or academia, or within our walls of this command, we know working together is how we’ll make real breakthroughs for this Nation.”

Companies interested in partnering with the Army or testing in the GSPEL can contact TARDEC through the Ground Vehicle Gateway: [www.groundvehiclegateway.com](http://www.groundvehiclegateway.com).

– more –

**TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN. WARFIGHTER FOCUSED.**

# **PRESS RELEASE**



## **ABOUT TARDEC**

Headquartered at the U.S. Army Detroit Arsenal in Warren, MI, TARDEC is a major research, development and engineering center for Research, Development and Engineering Command and an enterprise partner in the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command. TARDEC is the Nation's laboratory for advanced military automotive technology and serves as the Ground Systems Integrator for all Department of Defense (DOD) manned and unmanned ground vehicle systems. With roots dating back to the World War II era, TARDEC is a full life-cycle, systems engineering support provider-of-first-choice for all DOD ground combat and combat support weapons, equipment and vehicle systems. TARDEC develops and integrates the right technology solutions to improve Current Force effectiveness and provides superior capabilities for Future Force integration. TARDEC's technical, scientific and engineering staff lead cutting-edge research and development in Ground Systems Survivability; Power and Mobility; Ground Vehicle Robotics; Force Projection; and Vehicle Electronics and Architecture. [www.tardec.army.mil](http://www.tardec.army.mil).

###



**TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN. WARFIGHTER FOCUSED.**