

MAYOR KNOX WHITE
AUGUST 16, 2011

Good afternoon, and welcome to Chairwoman Foxx from our neighboring state of North Carolina, and to Congressmen Gowdy and Wilson, both hailing from South Carolina. On behalf of the City of Greenville, welcome to Clemson University's International Center for Automotive Research, also known as CU-ICAR. We greatly appreciate your choice of Greenville for this hearing.

Greenville is known as a community that builds partnerships. CU-ICAR is a remarkable example of what those partnerships can create.

Thirty years ago, Greenville was a much different place. In a region historically and chiefly known for agriculture and textiles, Greenville area leaders looked to the future and made an intentional decision to pursue a more diversified economy, actively recruiting industry giants like GE, Michelin, and then, a decade later, BMW.

And in this decade, another layer was added to this commitment of economic diversification, in which there was a greater recognition for the enhanced role that higher education could play in building a local economy. This was when Clemson University, in seeking to commercialize an important research being conducted there, began exploring the development of a wind tunnel with the help of a private partner.

Clemson officials approached BMW to see if it would be interested in purchasing time in that wind tunnel, but BMW said that was a function already handled in Germany. However, BMW was interested in helping build a local, knowledge-based workforce that could help support its global operations while also supporting the rapidly growing automotive cluster. They needed a level of engineering talent that was not currently being offered by any program in the United States. Subsequently, Clemson embarked on a quest to build a new Masters and PHD degree program that would be part of a unique concept of a research campus built around a particular niche in the marketplace – one dedicated to transportation and mobility technology. BMW and others also funded endowed professorships in the new program.

What began less than 10 years ago as an initial idea for a wind tunnel on 250 wooded acres has grown into an international campus that is driven by innovation and collaboration. We sit on a campus today that has generated more than \$250 million in investment. This includes \$12 million provided by the City, in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Transportation, to construct the roads and infrastructure necessary to serve this campus. Here, more than 100 graduate students from around the world, learn about automotive technology and how to implement tomorrow's ideas today. The school leads the nation in their systems engineering approach to vehicle engineering.

CU-ICAR was founded on the idea that successful economic development and world-class academics can be enhanced by building relationships. Those relationships can be seen on the campus with the BMW Information Technology Research Center and the

Koyo Bearings USA, JTEK Group research and development facility. The Campus is also home to the new Center for Emerging Technologies in Mobility and Clean Energy, or CET. The CET is a 60,000-square-foot office and lab facility, built in partnership with Clemson's Foundation and the Economic Development Administration of the US Department of Commerce. Opening this Fall, the facility is almost 100 percent pre-leased and includes the new world headquarters for Sage Automotive Interiors, along with more than a dozen companies developing the latest technologies and software.

Off campus, there are many more partnerships. These include Proterra, a leading innovator of zero-emission, commercial vehicle solutions. Proterra is building the EcoRide BE-35, a line of next-generation buses with FastFill charging stations that enable 100% recharge in less than 10 minutes with a 30-mile range. When Proterra was investigating relocation opportunities, CU-ICAR was what made the difference in its choosing South Carolina for its relocation. CU-ICAR said, "What do you need? Let us build a program around your needs to help you accelerate your technology," rather than "Here is what we can do." In the future, Proterra has plans on developing its manufacturing facility on the CU-ICAR Campus, employing more than 1,000 people.

Also based out of this Campus are several other exciting programs and projects. Deep Project Orange allows students to learn about the wants and needs of their future customer and translate this into an engineering solution and product. Working with specialists from various industry partners, students learn first-hand what it takes to delivery a mobility product to market.

Another exciting project for Greenville that ties in with the City's initiatives on the Greening of Greenville is Project Green, a joint economic development initiative between CU-ICAR and the SC Technology and Aviation Center for creating unique testing and R&D capabilities for public and private in sustainable mobility and connected transportation systems.

Without talent, technology, investment and infrastructure, we as a community cannot succeed. Clemson University, along with the private sector, has proven that collaboration between universities and the private sector can drive innovation, push young minds to look at problems differently, and can create new jobs and innovation.