



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RTP leader Rick Weddle elected President of IASP North American Division

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC, January 11, 2008 – Rick Weddle, President and CEO of [The Research Triangle Park](http://www.rtp.org), was elected President of the North American Division of the [International Association of Science Parks](http://www.iasp.org) (IASP) during a division meeting hosted by Quebec Metro High Tech Park in Quebec, Canada in December. During his two-year term as North American Division President, Mr. Weddle will serve on IASP's esteemed International Board of Directors, comprised of science park leaders from around the globe.

"It is an honor to serve on this prestigious international board and to collaborate with IASP and global science park leaders," said Weddle. "IASP underscores the importance of research, science and technology parks as successful tools for regional economic transformation."

The International Association of Science Parks is an international non-profit association dedicated to assisting the development of new science and technology parks as well as the growth and internationalization of already mature projects, encouraging partnerships and fostering international networking among more than 300 member organizations, represented by over 65 countries. The Research Triangle Park is an active member of IASP and will host the 2009 IASP World Conference, coinciding with the 50th anniversary year of The Research Triangle Park's establishment. The world conference, scheduled for June 2009, is expected to draw more than 1,000 international attendees to the Research Triangle region.

Detailed planning for the 2009 IASP World Conference will accelerate during the first quarter of 2008. The new, 500,000 square foot, state-of-the-art Raleigh Convention Center that will debut this year will be the primary conference venue.

"We are excited to ramp up plans to bring the 2009 IASP World Conference to the Triangle," said Weddle. "The year 2009 is an historic one marked not only by RTP's 50th anniversary, but also by significant milestones for many of our regional partners. Together with our partners and sponsors we look forward to showcasing our vibrant region to the IASP global delegation in 2009."

About The Research Triangle Park

The Research Triangle Park is the leading and largest high technology research and science park in North America, covering 7,000 total acres. Founded in 1959, The Research Triangle Park is developed and managed by the non-profit Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina. The Foundation is responsible for building and maintaining the physical aspects of the Park; attracting and retaining Park companies; and enhancing the competitive position of the Park and the Triangle region. To learn more about The Research Triangle Park, visit <http://www.rtp.org>.

###

Editor's Note:

A high resolution image of Rick Weddle is available for download at:

http://www.rtp.org/files/Media/rick_weddle.jpg

For more information about the International Association of Science Parks, please visit the IASP web site at <http://www.iasp.ws>

Contact:

Jennifer Ferris, Director of Communications
Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina
(919) 549-8181, ferris@rtp.org