



## C3 International Opens Branch Office at S&T Park



C3 International, a nanotechnology company based in Alpharetta, Georgia, recently opened a branch office at the new Oak Ridge Science and Technology (S&T) Park at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). The office is located within the park's Halcyon Commercialization Center, which is housed in Building 2033, an existing facility at the laboratory. The company negotiated a real estate license with the Department of Energy (DOE) for three offices on the top floor. Eventually, the C3 office will take over the entire floor and occupy some 10,000 square feet of lab and office space.

The company, which makes ultrathin coatings that extend the life of various materials, has had a collaborative relationship with ORNL for several years. Arvid Pasto, former director of ORNL's High Temperature Materials Laboratory (HTML), is managing C3's Oak Ridge operations. Pasto said C3 immediately recognized the benefit of locating an office at the park.



"C3 has worked with ORNL since 2001, when the company was introduced to the HTML User Program. This successful effort was followed by Metals Processing Laboratory User projects and additional work via Work for Others (WFO) and HTML projects," he said. "C3 has found the relationship with the laboratory to be extremely beneficial. We have been aware of the park since its first public mention and decided right away to move in so that we could access the technology, expertise, and equipment at ORNL."

Pasto said being able to interact with lab staff on a daily basis is especially important for a small business because it can lead to more personal and efficient interactions. He noted the importance

of partnering with ORNL staff to develop ideas into commercially feasible concepts and jointly patenting the concepts or licensing them from ORNL.

The mission of C3/Oak Ridge is to assist C3 International by (1) developing and monitoring user and WFO projects at ORNL and other DOE and/or federal labs to characterize the materials C3 is developing or using; (2) developing concepts for new technological areas and products for C3 to pursue and performing experiments to prove proof of concept; and (3) assisting with commercialization activities being performed by the operational divisions (aluminum, steel, and petrochemical) of C3.

Pasto expects the number of C3/Oak Ridge employees to begin increasing by late 2008 or early 2009. "As funding allows, based on commercialization activities of the C3 divisions, we will hire engineers and technicians to develop concepts for new technologies and products," he said. "Most operating revenue will be directed into research, development, and demonstration, along with patent development, so that C3 can expand into new business applications. Within 3 years, C3/Oak Ridge could be a several-million-dollar-per-year operation, funding research in its own labs and at ORNL, complemented by the incredible array of technological equipment and staff expertise in Oak Ridge."



Top: Mark Deininger (left), founder, president, and CEO of C3 International, and Arvid Pasto. Bottom: Halcyon Commercialization Center at ORNL.