It's no secret that to become a world-class center of excellence in simulation requires world-class components:
- A critical mass of related industry
- Academic and research commitments at the highest level
- An infrastructure that facilitates operations, communications and product movement
- A ready source of professional workers

Did you know they’re all here in Central Florida?
The Central Florida modeling and simulation industry has been building for more than 40 years. From humble, yet crucial beginnings as support for military training and preparation for space travel, Central Florida M&S has evolved to support the widest range of uses imaginable.

And just like other world-class developments in the region, simulation is here in a big way.

Here’s why....
INDUSTRY CLUSTER
Today a $10 billion technology industry thrives alongside Florida’s palm trees and theme parks. M&S, which accounts for a full 25% ($2.5 billion) is part of a global business platform with positive, international name recognition.

Look at the numbers
More than 140 M&S-related companies have offices in the region. And since modern M&S science is a convergence of technologies, these companies benefit from nearby defense, medical, optics and lasers and high speed computing resources.

Get the support
• Locally, the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission was created specifically to help pave the way for business growth. Coordination among defense, industry and local government is achieved through an active Military Affairs Advisory Committee whose members include top representation from all three entities.

• Regionally, the Florida High Tech Corridor Council works to attract, grow and retain high tech industry and the workforce to support it within its 23-county corridor.

• Enterprise Florida assists with its state-level pro-business, pro-technology efforts and Progress Energy’s Economic Development team assists with site selection, energy cost incentives and other valuable resources.

Procurement
Army contracts to small business in Central Florida increased 124% from 2000 to 2006, totaling close to $600 million. Much of that government funding goes to simulation training and homeland defense.

ACADEMICS
Research this
Three of the top ten largest universities in the nation are major contributors to the growth and strength of modeling and simulation in Central Florida.

Nearby University of Central Florida, recognized as America’s partnership university, and its Institute for Simulation & Training is entering its third decade of commitment to M&S research.

UCF is ranked 7th worldwide in patents accepted vs. patents filed and owes much of its research success to its academic programs, diversity in research and in the many ways results are fed back to users.

The University of South Florida at the western-most end of the Florida High Tech Corridor and the University of Florida at the Corridor’s northern reach complement UCF with research initiatives of their own.

Four nearby community colleges, Valencia, Seminole, Lake-Sumter and Daytona Beach, are committed to meeting the workforce needs of local high tech businesses.
All in all, the region is home to more than 50 professional and technical schools whose specialties include high-tech, simulation-related study.

Programs
M&S education at UCF ranges from professional courses to master’s and doctoral degrees. The university’s M&S graduate program, the first truly multidisciplinary program in the nation—and the largest—attracts students from around the world.

Graduates of the Daytona Beach Community College (DBCC) Simulation Technology Program are eagerly sought by local industry; DBCC has geared its curricula with such close coordination with industry that many students have jobs before graduation. The Florida High Tech Corridor created techPATH to make teachers more aware of two-year technology career opportunities.

Commercialization
...in the best sense of the word.
UCF channels many products of university research into the commercial sector through technology transfer efforts of the Office of Research and Commercialization. Many of the companies operating out of the adjacent Central Florida Research Park directly benefit from university and IST research turned into profitable goods and services. The university is so committed to technology transfer, it has created what is now one of the world’s top 10 incubators of start-up high tech business.

INFRASTRUCTURE
What good are products if you can’t get them out and materials if you can’t get them in?

No problem. You’re in Central Florida, the first international quadra-modal foreign trade zone and a strategic hub for transportation by air, rail, sea and—Yes!—even space.

Now boarding
More than 34 million passengers heard that call on their way to or from Orlando in 2005. Orlando International Airport is North America’s best large airport for customer service and 2nd in the world. With more than 850 arrivals and departures daily, it’s the 4th largest airport in the nation for domestic flights (12th largest overall and 21st in the world). You can go point to point without any stops to 86 domestic and 16 international destinations.

Just up the highway less than an hour away is Orlando Sanford International, the 3rd most active international airport in Florida.

Two if by sea
Port Canaveral on the Atlantic and Port of Tampa on the Gulf handle containerized, project, bulk, ro/ro and breakbulk cargo service to destinations worldwide. Port Canaveral is the 2nd busiest cruise port in the world and recently added regularly scheduled cargo service to the Caribbean. Port of Tampa is among the top 10 in the nation in tonnage handled.

Up the St Johns River, the inland Port of Sanford has 250,000 square feet of industrial and distribution space and river access to the Intercoastal Waterway.

Rail life
Two major, full-service freight stations move goods between north and south Atlantic points. Central Florida rail lines, with six daily north and southbound freights and Amtrak passenger and Auto Train terminals, connect with all major U.S. rail carriers. CSX Transportation, with about 1,750 route miles in Florida and key facilities in Tampa and Orlando, provides rail freight transportation in 23 states, Washington DC and Canada.

Who called this meeting?
Orlando ranks second only to Las Vegas in trade shows. A major factor in the region’s climb to the top is Orange County Convention Center and more than 111,000 hotel rooms.
Life is good
A warm sunny climate; professional sports; outdoor recreational activities; community support for art and cultural event venues; world-famous attractions; nearby beaches and much more, are available in Florida year-round.

WORKFORCE
The force will be with you
Nourishment of future high tech workers in Central Florida begins as early as the secondary schools, in some cases even earlier. The Florida High Tech Corridor-sponsored techPATH and techCAMPS inform teachers of career opportunities and motivate them to encourage their students to study math and science.

University and community college programs get high school students involved with technology and attempt to stimulate a drive to explore and invent. Two-year college programs feed the region’s hunger for simulation technologists and at the same time lay the groundwork for higher education alternatives.

University of Central Florida graduate studies—master’s and PhD—offer students pathways to professional simulation careers from a wide selection of disciplines. For working simulation professionals M&S courses help prepare for the certificate exam. Frequent periodic workshops, seminars and colloquia foster cross-pollination among industry, government and academia.

THEY’RE ALL HERE...
...a critical mass of industry, university support for research and innovation, success-promoting business climate and coordinated workforce sustainment programs. It’s no wonder more and more are choosing Central Florida for M&S.

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