







WNCG Awarded NSF Industry Collaboration Center | Texas ECE - Electrical & Computer Engineering at UT Austin  
that society will need to solve in the next several decades,"  
said Cockrell School of Engineering Dean Gregory L.  
Fenves.

WNCG's research funding has exceeded \$20 million since its formation in 2002 when founding director Professor Ted Rappaport was recruited to the Cockrell School's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Unique to large academic centers, WNCG rotates the leadership among its faculty. Currently, WNCG is led by electrical engineering Professor Jeffrey Andrews, and has 13 industrial affiliate sponsors: AT&T, Cisco Systems, U.S. Department of Defense, Panasonic, Yokogawa, Powerwave Technologies, Commscope Corp., Samsung, National Instruments, Dell, Qualcomm, Texas Instruments, and Huawei, who participate as Industrial Affiliate members, as well as major government support from the Army Research Laboratory, NSF and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

The NSF center status will allow The University of Texas at Austin to significantly leverage industry funding for research because many large corporations specifically seek to fund NSF research centers.

"The award from NSF allows WNCG to continue growing its current operations by bolstering its industrial affiliate sponsorships, and creates a powerhouse of university researchers across five major universities that can solve major problems of national importance and of relevance to industry," said Rappaport.

WNCG joins existing I/UCRC center sites at Polytechnic Institute of New York University, Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia and Auburn University to become part of the Wireless Internet Center for Advanced Technologies (WICAT).

Rappaport, WNCG's founding director, will be the WICAT site director at The University of Texas at Austin, along with Andrews and electrical engineering Professor Robert Heath Jr. who will also help lead WNCG's participation as a NSF center site.

Starting this fall, WNCG's annual wireless industry/research forum, known as the Texas Wireless Summit, will be expanded to include industry sponsors and researchers from the other four universities in WICAT.

The NSF I/UCRC center award is only the second at The University of Texas at Austin. In August of last year, the university and Texas A&M University collaborated to win a center in hybrid electric vehicles.

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[Jeffrey Andrews](#)

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