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## Andhra to get 2 Georgia Tech campuses

16 Feb 2008, 0105 hrs IST, Neelima Mahajan-Bansal,TNN

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NEW DELHI: Once again, Andhra Pradesh has piped Maharashtra as the choice destination for prestigious academic institutions. The US-based Georgia Institute of Technology has signed up with the southern state to set up two campuses at an estimated investment of \$100 million over the next few years.

A decade ago, Mumbai lost its chance to play host to ISB, now an acclaimed business school in Asia, after politicians demanded a quota of seats for locals. Now, despite a

personal invitation from chief minister Vilasrao Deshmukh, the state could not find enough land quickly to accommodate Georgia Tech. Deshmukh had invited the [university](#) during a state visit to the US in 2005.

Georgia Tech will set up a campus in Hyderabad and later at Visakhapatnam by 2009-1010, on land purchased from the AP government.

The institute will initially start with a faculty of 10 and 200 doctoral students. There are further plans of setting up a special economic zone that will ensure successful industry-university interaction.

Experiences elsewhere, like Harvard and Wales in the UK suggest that such an interaction acts as a catalyst for research, economic development and technology commercialization.

There are ambitious ramp up plans. Says Vijay Madiseti, executive director of Georgia Tech's India initiative and professor in [its School](#) of Electrical and Computer Engineering, "The campus is expected to grow over 10 years to about 100 faculty and 2,000 students co-located with a university-industry research park. We expect to work with private donors and the US and Indian industry to raise the necessary funding (approximately \$100 million)."

Georgia Tech's India campus will offer degrees recognized in the US, identical to those offered by its US collegiate counterparts. This will make Georgia Tech the first global university to do so in India. The initial set of master's and doctoral programmes will be in the areas of information technology and hardware systems; biotechnology and healthcare; infrastructure research; and energy systems.

Says Madiseti, "The degree programmes will be taught by tenure-track and tenured Georgia Tech faculty, who are expected to possess the advantage of having [study](#) and research time spent on both US and Indian campuses."

While most students are expected to come from India, some would be from the US as well. Just as in the US, most students are likely to support through [graduate](#) research assistantships.

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