

## **LITE fundraiser draws curious, interested to high-tech facility**

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The light was turned on Thursday evening at the Louisiana Immersive Technology Enterprise Center. And drivers along Cajundome Boulevard slowed for a glimpse of the building's focal point - a giant egg-shaped structure that glowed in red, gold and purple jewel tones.

The center, which has not yet officially opened, played host to a fundraiser for Zydetechnology, the technology council of the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

Visitors at the LITE Center on Thursday were impressed with what they saw in the \$27 million complex. "I've been following the building of the place for several years. The technology that's invested in it - this is something that can really bring Lafayette far beyond where we've been," said Mike Craton of ICT Insurance Agency.

One business that is working at the LITE center also presented its work to the Zydetechnology audience. Linda Thurman and Marquette Cheeks of Emerald Bayou Studios said supercomputers at the LITE Center has helped them make films. "We need the high-speed connections and the massive processing ability," Thurman said. Their short film, *The Glass Chord*, was being shown at the seminar.

"We're excited to be the first group in the LITE Center," said Zydetechnology chairman Jeff LeBlanc. Zydetechnology has been key in the development of LITE, and LeBlanc said the group is planning more ways to develop the area's technological infrastructure. Zydetechnology's new Web site is designed to be a resource for businesses looking for technical support services, LeBlanc said.

"Rather than throw a dart in a phonebook, you can read a comprehensive profile of a company that can provide those services," LeBlanc said.

LITE's unique feature is a six-sided 3D "cave" where researchers and businesses can be immersed in their data from all sides. During the "ZydeVision 3D" seminar, participants got a preview of the 3D visualization, with a virtual walk through an Indian temple.

The visitors were also introduced to Carolina Cruz-Neira, LITE's executive director and chief scientist, who told the business leaders what LITE could do for them.

"We are about getting the human to be a component of the entire computer system," she said.