



Making Change

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High-Tech Leads the Way

THE FUTURE IS ALREADY HERE AT SEVERAL OF LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES' work sites, and the IBEW is in the middle of it.

Lucent Technology's new Advanced Development and Research Facility (ADRF) at Cirent Semiconductor in Orlando, Florida, opened for business on February 16, 2000, becoming the only union operated development lab in the nation that produces semiconductors. Union members built the facility, which is more commonly called a cleanroom, and it is staffed with union members who work inside the facility to produce the next generation of hardware components for everything from computers and cellular telephones to pagers and video games.

The new
ADRF facility.



More than 1,000 union members work inside the central Florida facility. IBEW Local 2000 represents process analysts, maintenance technicians and senior operators responsible for producing the various integrated circuits. Roughly 70 IBEW members make up the work force inside the ADRF.

Local 2000 President Nick Frisco says the Lucent plant has been in operation since 1984 and IBEW came on board a year later. "We are committed to ensuring that Local 2000 remains a big part of the emerging technologies market," said Frisco. "The work we are doing inside this facility lets you know that we are leading a charge to the future." Frisco said that Local

2000 members are a big part of the team that produces the semiconductors and integrated circuits that are the lifeline of the high-tech world. "Training will determine how well our members fit into the high-tech scenario. It is very important that our members are trained in the new technologies."

Cost of the new 21,000 square-foot ADRF facility was more than \$300 million and it plays a key role in Lucent's competitive position in the microelectronics market. The facility is also staffed with scientists, engineers and process analysts, and sits on 250 acres of lush Central Florida landscape bordered by lakes and trees. Cirent Semiconductor, the manufac-

turing division of Lucent Technologies Microelectronics Group, was established in Orlando in October 1995. It has achieved OSHA's highest award for safety and environmental protection, and also received star status in the OSHA Voluntary Protection Program.

Local 2000 Vice President Felix Disla said that the ADRF's construction was a joint effort with local management, Bell Labs (Lucent's research arm) and a work force that is quickly becoming much more versatile in an era when the technology is becoming more complex.

Disla noted that Local 2000 played a major role in persuading Lucent's senior management that Orlando was the best place to build a state-of-the art research facility.

"We convinced them that our trained work force is well-equipped to handle the demands of producing the high-tech components." He noted that as consumer demand for the high-tech products increases, so too will the demand increase for the trained members who will build those products. "Orlando possesses a highly skilled technical work force that can meet the challenges of producing quality electronic products."

When the research facility was unveiled for the first time, a button was pushed on a remote control that set in motion a dramatic animation of a huge pair of scissors cutting a bright red ribbon "virtually" tied around the new building.

Welcome to the future. 

Local 2000, Orlando, Florida, President/Business Manager Nicholas R. Frisco (left), and Vice President Felix Disla.

