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# Reese center on the road to progress, director tells builders

While the pace isn't quite "one thing after another," there's a lot going on for the better at Reese Technology Center, executive director Bill Miller told the West Texas Home Builders Association at its monthly luncheon Thursday.

Posted: January 14, 2011 - 12:14am

By [Walt Nett](#)

AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

While the pace isn't quite "one thing after another," there's a lot going on for the better at Reese Technology Center, executive director Bill Miller told the West Texas Home Builders Association at its monthly luncheon Thursday.

Miller's talk was part update, part sales pitch as he spoke of how Reese's life has changed from an Air

Force pilot training base to a research and technology center that offers plenty of room for business on its 2,500 acres.

And a certain amount of ambition, he said, including plans for a cotton-related trade mission to India involving Seshadri "Dr. Ram" Ramkumar, whose research with Fibertect in the Nonwovens and Advanced Materials Laboratory at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health has produced a variety of strong results in uses as a decontaminant.

"Fibertect will be to Texas Tech what Gatorade was to the University of Florida," Miller said.

Developing a trade connection with India and its sizeable cotton weaving industry has been a goal of Miller's for some time.

In addition, the other highly visible event on the technology campus has been the completion of a 110-meter wind turbine, built by Barcelona-based manufacturer Alstom Inc.

The turbine, which will be available for research uses in the Texas Tech Wind Engineering and South Plains College wind technologies training program, is generating electricity that's sold to South Plains Electric Cooperative.

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Plans for a second, 140-meter-tall turbine are in the works, Miller said.

Miller said the big issue, when he was named executive director of the technology center was "what is our purpose?"

At that time, he said, officials agreed to focus on some of the region's traditional strengths — wind and alternative energy development, cotton, health care and education — as core elements of their recruiting efforts.



He likened the process to "putting a new dress on an old doll."

And the facility is looking at several interesting options, including the possibility of rehabilitating a couple of the air bases' old dormitories for use as student dormitories. In addition, Reese is negotiating with a food service provider, in part because "the nearest restaurant is six miles away."

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