

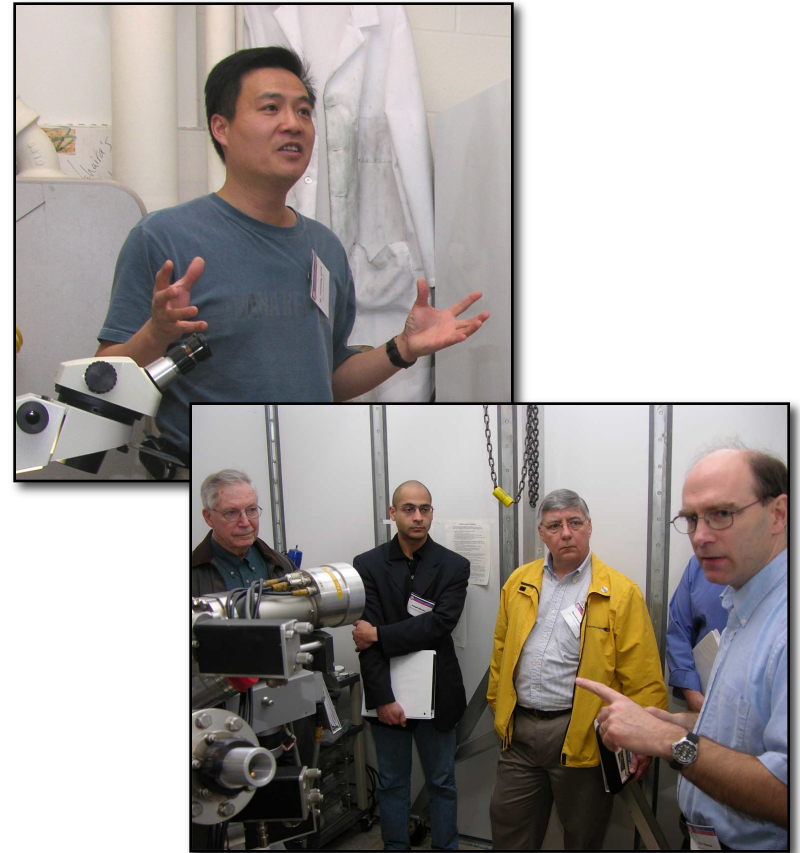
A Materials Research Science and Engineering Center Program Highlight

Facilities 101 gives Businesses Access to State-of-the-Art Instruments

Like researchers at universities, engineers at high-tech companies often need state-of-the-art testing and characterization equipment, such as electron microscopes, to solve technical and manufacturing problems. This is a problem for small companies that cannot afford the often multi-million dollar investments necessary to purchase these instruments.

To meet this need, the Cornell Center for Materials Research (CCMR) opens the doors of its extensive Shared Experimental Facilities to all users – including industrial scientists and engineers. The annual **Facilities 101 Workshop** provides prospective industrial users with an overview of the CCMR's capabilities, as well as tours and demonstrations of the instruments. Participants are also given the opportunity to have one-on-one consultations with facility managers.

As a result of activities such as this, external users account for over 20% of CCMR facility use. (Small businesses alone account for 9%!) This program ensures that the National Science Foundation's investments in research equipment help the broader community.



(upper) Facility manager Yuanming Zhang discusses polymer analysis. (lower) Facility manager Mick Thomas demonstrates a transmission electron microscope to potential industrial users.

For more details, visit the Cornell Center for Materials Research website at <http://www.ccmr.cornell.edu/news>