



IIE PRESS RELEASE

Institute of Industrial Engineers
Leading a productive world



Student Chapter

November 23, 2004

IIE Tours Tompkins Associates' Development Lab

On Friday, November 5, 2004, students from the University of Florida's Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE) toured Tompkins Associates' Development Lab in Orlando, Fla. IIE's goal was to learn about new material handling and system technologies that could be integrated into a distribution center, warehouse, or factory. The students saw how various barcode and pick-to-light technologies could help streamline a distribution center. They learned how a warehouse's IT system is set up, from the Warehouse Management Center, to the middleware applications (such as Tompkins Control System), on down to the individual conveyers and carousels. Finally, the students learned how new RFID technology will change supply chains in the near future. The students were vaguely familiar with many of the technologies, but had never seen how they were all integrated and worked together. The employees at Tompkins Associates were extremely helpful in answering all of the students' questions and provided an excellent overview of all of the technologies.



The Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE) is the world's largest professional society devoted to supporting the needs of the industrial and systems engineering profession. This society encompasses both professional and university chapters and serves as a bridge to ISE students transitioning to professionals. Founded in 1948, IIE is now global in scope while maintaining a non-profit status. There are more than 17,000 members and 150 chapters around the world. The IIE primary objective is to provide leadership for the application, education, training, research, and development of industrial engineering. The University of Florida chapter of IIE boasts over 50 members and maintains a gold membership status with national IIE. The chapter provides leadership in developing various Industrial Engineering capabilities while promoting and encouraging an understanding and appreciation of engineering ethics and principles.

Tompkins Associates is the leading operations-focused consulting and integration firm, specializing in end-to-end supply chain solutions. Customers look to Tompkins' expertise to develop and implement strategies for intelligent solutions in distribution center design, warehouse strategic planning, distribution network configuration, transportation system planning, system integration and implementation, logistics and manufacturing outsourcing, and supply chain optimization. As consultants and integrators for more than 30 years, Tompkins offers a proven track record and deep industry expertise for solutions that reduce costs and improve overall supply chain performance. The company is headquartered in Raleigh, NC. For more information, visit www.tompkinsinc.com