

Eaststate

Oak Ridge hosts summit focusing on high-tech boom

By **DUNCAN MANSFIELD**

Associated Press

KNOXVILLE — Political, business and scientific leaders will gather in Oak Ridge this week to dream, debate and perhaps draft plans for a techno-science corridor in East Tennessee.

Third District U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp is the primary organizer and booster of the summit, which has sessions scattered across Oak Ridge Thursday and Friday.

Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, Nobel-winning physicist Clifford Shull and National Science Foundation director Neal Lane will be participants.

So will Gov. Don Sundquist, Sens. Bill Frist and Fred Thompson and other congressional members not just from Tennessee.

Rep. Steve Schiff, R-N.M., will be conducting a field hearing of his House Science subcommittee on basic research. Rep. John Myers, R-Ind., who chairs House Energy subcommittee on energy and the environment, will lead a session on recycling hazardous and nuclear waste.

"This is not just an opportunity to showcase the success stories," Wamp said in an interview.



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REP. ZACH WAMP
Tennessean Republican

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The freshman Republican sees a technology boom stretching the length of his 3rd District — from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and nearby Knoxville south to his hometown of Chattanooga.

The changes Wamp talks about are both political and economic. Republicans control Congress now, accounting for the decidedly GOP bent of the summit participants. And Congress is focused on cutting budgets, particularly for science and research.

"I think with respect to science

and technology and environmental industries that we need to seize the moment as a region and capitalize on this transition," Wamp said.

"I am very confident now that the summit will pull together in a very powerful regional way the components of our economy with a clear plan of action for the future to grow and create more and better jobs."

Alvin Trivelpiece, director of the Oak Ridge National Lab, praised the summit for promoting science funding and the region's resources to key policy makers in Washington and those newly elected who represent Tennessee there.

"A little boosterism never hurts anybody," he said. ■