- Environment: Federal money has been earmarked for the Sunbelt Institute along with several universities and companies for R&D in atmosphere, ground water and waste control.
- Space: three NASA centers (Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi) have over 64% of NASA's \$12 billion budget developed in SEUSA, involving all final space technologies.
- Marine: five major R&D centers on east and gulf coast have Federal project funding.
- Military: Defence R&D budget in the territory reached over \$400 million in 1986.
- Engineering: Atlanta is nationwide hub for consultants (1400), because of excellent transportation (air) network out of Atlanta, and because of Georgia Tech as the number one engineering R&D university in USA.
- Transportation: Excellent systems and several of latest US rapid rail systems, along with good ship, rail, truck and highway provide the model intermodal systems. Atlanta, for example, has automated intermodal center for rapid interchange, rail to truck.
- Advanced Materials: The area is a major source of ceramic raw material in the U.S.; four major R&D centers comprise the hub for advanced materials development.
- Production Manufacturing Process: Several projects are in play to apply developed technologies to actual manufacturing processes.

TECHNOLOGY STRENGTHS

Areas of strength include:

- Aerospace: the largest employer in several southeastern states, with a large number of surrounding smaller spin-off companies.
- Poultry: the industry in Georgia has increased production by 200% while reducing the work force by over 60% the past several years (all with automation).
- Textile/Apparel/Carpet: the Southeast manufactures over 50% of U.S. finished products.
- Furniture/Woodwork: the first (North Carolina) and second (Mississippi) largest concentrations of furniture manufacturing in the Southeast which lead in wood product automation technologies.
- Pulp/Paper/Forest: the leading U.S. paper institute just relocated to Georgia Tech in Atlanta (where the international trade show TAPPI is held every other year).
- Communications: the leading U.S. area in manufacturing telecommunication and satellite machinery and equipment.
- Energy/Power: area has the two major U.S. nuclear research centers (Oakridge Tn and Savannah River Project SC) and five major power companies.
- Agriculture/Food: area has five major universities developing research along with three large research centers for initiating research (for example poultry processing).