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USF Poly Hires Director of Technology and Innovation

Jean-Pierre Emond will also serve the university as a professor.

By [Robin Williams Adams](#)
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LAKELAND | The University of South Florida Polytechnic has hired a new director, Jean-Pierre Emond, who will assume leadership in February of the Division of Technology and Innovation. He also will be a professor there.

Emond, who has a doctorate in food engineering, is co-director of the Research Center for Food Distribution and Retailing at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. UF opened the research center in 2005.

He is a professor in the UF Agricultural and Biological Engineering section and involved in research aimed at improvements in packaging and food distribution. His research interests include heat and mass transfer in food packaging during air shipments and optimal use of RFID - radio frequency identification - technology for perishable foods.



Jean-Pierre Emond

"This hire is what we call a game-changer," USF Poly Chief Executive Marshall Goodman said in a press release.

"Dr. Emond is a world-class researcher and a perfect example of applied technology. He embodies 'polytech,' and he adds an immediate and exciting dynamic to our region's economic development initiatives."

Emond's international profile and experience in developing links between academic institutions and industry will bring new resources to USF Poly and the community, said David Steele, USF Poly's director of university advancement.

"He'll ultimately end up being a magnet to other scholars," Steele said.

Emond specializes in packaging science, food distribution and transport science, food engineering and post-harvest technology. He has worked in process engineering, packaging, transportation, supply chain and RFID technology for 17 years.

"I see an opportunity to bring innovative research and teaching programs to make USF Polytechnic unique and progressive," Emond said in the release.

Emond earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering in 1987 at the Université Laval in Quebec and a master's in food sciences there in 1989.

He earned his doctorate in food engineering in 1992 at UF. He taught at Laval until 2004, although he was a visiting professor in 2003-04 at UF, then came to UF as an associate professor in 2004.

He is a founder of the Food Engineering Undergraduate Program at Laval, the Air Cargo Transportation Research Group and an RFID lab at UF, USF Poly said.

Since 1997, he has been principal adviser in perishables for the International Air Transport Association.

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