Long-standing partnership with Harris grows stronger

Pop quiz: What’s the name of the Florida-based company that employs nearly 350 RIT grads and plans to hire more?

Answer: Harris Corp., an international communications and information technology company serving government and commercial markets in more than 150 countries. The company’s RF Communications Division, located in Rochester, is one of the region’s largest corporate employers, with about 2,000 workers.

“We’re very busy,” says Ed Maier, vice president/general manager of Engineering and Operations for Harris RF Communications. “We’re hiring a lot of engineers.”

The company hired 26 RIT grads in fiscal year 2007 and is continuing that pace in 2008. In addition to hiring graduates, Harris is the largest employer of engineering co-op students. Currently, 36 co-ops are on the job, and more than 600 students have worked for the company over the past 10 years. Many of the grads and co-ops are in Rochester, but others work at the company’s operations in Denver, Florida and Washington, D.C.

“RIT does a great job preparing its engineering students for the marketplace,” says Tom Kenney ’80 (computer engineering), vice president, Product Line Management, Harris RF Communications. “The engineering curricula provide a good mix of theoretical and practical education, and the co-op program is top notch. We are very comfortable hiring RIT grads, because we know they can hit the ground running.”

RIT alumni have done well at the company. In addition to Kenney, several other RIT grads hold top leadership roles. For example:

- Steve Marschilok ’84 (electrical engineering) is vice president/general manager of International Government Systems.
- Mike Maurer ’83 (MBA) is VP/Controller.
- Dick Rzepkowski ’75, ’82 (electrical engineering) is VP Communications Security Products.

About Harris Corporation

Harris RF Communications Division, located in Rochester, is a leading supplier of secure voice and data communications products, systems, and networks to military, government, and commercial organizations worldwide.

Harris Corp. is an international communications and information technology company serving government and commercial markets in more than 150 countries. Headquartered in Melbourne, Fla., the company has annual revenue of over $4 billion and 16,000 employees — including nearly 7,000 engineers and scientists. Harris is dedicated to developing best-in-class assured communications™ products, systems, and services. Additional information about Harris Corp. is available at www.harris.com.