

THE INNOVATORS

How some of Virginia's leading organizations set themselves apart from their peers



▼ **VIRGINIA TECH**
TIMOTHY SANDS, PRESIDENT

From its expertise in intelligent infrastructure to a pioneering partnership with Alphabet's X innovation lab to explore the commercial use of drones for food delivery, Virginia Tech has the research and projects to back up its 'Invent the Future' tagline—and it's set to take this even further in coming years with the formation of a Creativity and Innovation District. Designed to support innovation from idea to commercialization, it will also help the university explore the integration of arts with science and engineering.

"When I think about where our students are going to be working, and the kind of enterprises they'll be engaged with, that intersection of technology, science, engineering, arts and design is really a fertile area," says president Timothy Sands. "It's all future-oriented and I think that is something special about Virginia Tech."



▼ **INOVA**
KNOX SINGLETON, CEO

"The greatest differentiator for Inova has been our pioneer status in this whole genomic science and big data revolution," says Knox Singleton, CEO of the North Virginian health organization. "We really became convinced that the ability to predict illness and health status via the genome would revolutionize the whole way that you manage health."

His organization's efforts here began as far back as 2009, but took a leap forward in 2015 when a deal was inked to create a first-of-its-kind Center for Personalized Health campus on a former ExxonMobil site in Merrifield. At full build-out, the complex will contain facilities dedicated to research, education and clinical care, and will allow Inova to tailor therapies to a particular patient's genetic make-up, while acting as a catalyst for related economic development in the region.



▼ **THE AES CORPORATION**
ANDRÉS GLUSKI, PRESIDENT AND CEO

With \$15 billion in annual revenues and 35 GW of generating capacity across 17 countries and four continents, AES is one of the world's largest power companies and has developed a reputation as a pioneer in numerous energy markets.

Notably, it was the first company to introduce grid-scale, advanced battery-based energy storage to counter the intermittency of renewable energy by storing it for future use. Still a world leader in the technology, AES now has 136MW of storage projects in operation, with 296MW under construction or in development.

"It's been a very good experiment and I think it shows how we can innovate and how we can make a difference," says president and CEO Andrés Gluski. "I have no doubt that we have helped accelerate the adoption of energy storage everywhere in the world."

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