History
The National Center for Asphalt Technology (NCAT) was created in 1986 through an agreement between the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) Education Foundation and Auburn University. This unique joint venture was developed in conjunction with companies, both large and small, associated with the hot mix asphalt (HMA) industry. NCAT was created to ensure the health of this industry, which plays a key role in our nation's economy.

Program direction is provided by a board of directors that includes four representatives from Auburn University, four from the National Asphalt Producers Association, five at-large members (three from industry and two from the university), and four ex-officio members representing the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Transportation Research Board (TRB), NAPA, and NCAT.

Asphalt Facts
• 96 percent of all paved roads—two million miles nationally—are surfaced with asphalt
• The hot mix asphalt industry directly employs approximately 300,000 and indirectly accounts for an additional 600,000 jobs
• Each year the industry produces and places approximately 500 million tons of hot mix asphalt valued at $20 billion

Activities
NCAT is a national clearinghouse for teaching and research:
• Research activities set the standard for the industry and include research conducted with a dozen state Departments of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, NAPA, the Asphalt Pavement Alliance, and the National Cooperative Highway Research Program
• Professor training programs that have already graduated more than 200 college-level faculty
• More than 40 short courses annually educate working professionals and technicians
• Transportation Research Information Service computer retrieves reports pertaining to HMA technology
• NCAT newsletter, Asphalt Technology News, keeps busy professionals up to date
• NCAT textbook, "Hot Mix Asphalt Materials, Mixture Design and Construction" is used in classrooms across the nation

Test Track
NCAT’s 1.7-mile test track is located 15 miles east of the Auburn campus. This real-world laboratory is designed to test the performance of roadway surfaces—and the vehicles that use them—with the goal of improving the cost-effectiveness, life span, comfort and safety of our nation’s highways.

Test Track Facts
• 1.7-mile oval
• Located on 310-acre site
• Fully instrumented for temperature and humidity
• Design speed approximately 45 mph
• 48 test sections (each 200 feet long, 12 feet wide, various depths)
• 4,700 square foot on-site testing lab

Lab Facilities
NCAT is located in the City of Auburn’s South Technology Park in a new 40,000 square foot building that contains 17,500 square feet of state-of-the-art materials testing labs, offices and classrooms. The labs are available for complete rheological characterization of asphalt cements and characterization of hot mix asphalt mixes.

Equipment
NCAT has been selected as the Southeastern Superpave Center, providing member states with the testing equipment for Superpave mix design and analysis, including:
• Superpave asphalt binder testing
• Aggregate testing
• Behavior of HMA mixtures

Asphalt Facts
• 56 percent of all road miles—two million miles nationally—are surfaced with asphalt
• The hot mix asphalt industry directly employs approximately 300,000 and indirectly accounts for an additional 600,000 jobs
• Each year the industry produces and places approximately 500 million tons of hot mix asphalt valued at $20 billion