

---

## Tri-City research park helping firms prosper

Tri-City Herald, January 26, 1997

World Trade Magazine recently chose the Tri-Cities Science and Technology Park as one of the top 10 research parks in the United States, but do you know about it? Many who live and work in the area aren't aware of the park or its growing reputation as a valuable resource for the business community.

The park in Richland encompasses 2,600 acres of land bounded by Horn Rapids Road, the Columbia River, Snyder Road and state Highway 240. It contains about 2.4 million square feet of building space, employs nearly 10,000 people and houses approximately 80 business and technical organizations. And it's the only park that contains a national laboratory --Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, operated for the Department of Energy by Battelle Northwest.

The park is a designated area that includes a university, land and existing or planned buildings designed primarily for research. Its mission is to build partnerships that assist the growth of new ventures and to aid the transfer of technology and business skill between the university and industry tenants. The Tri-Cities park, which was incorporated in 1990, is home to advances in environmental cleanup and restoration, medical technology, energy, advanced materials and life sciences.

Companies considering a Tri-City location may find the park a good place to settle. Precision Castparts is locating its new manufacturing operation on the west side. The park offers buildings, land, a qualified work force, research and technology capabilities, business support companies and telecommunications resources. For example, as a GTE World Class "SmartPark," it contains digital and fiber-optic equipment to provide tenants with virtually unlimited voice, data and video transmission capabilities.

Several facilities in the park can help businesses just getting started. The Technology and Enterprise Center is a full-service incubator at the southwest corner of the park. The Port of Benton operates a second incubator on George Washington Way. These centers provide space, equipment, and office amenities to help fledgling businesses build a sustainable future.

New to the park is the William R. Wiley Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory, managed by Battelle. This 200,000 square-foot national scientific user lab will attract experts from around the world to solve complex environmental and other problems. A second new facility, the Consolidated Information Center, is opening this summer. It will house libraries and other information resources of PNNL and WSU-Tri-Cities, plus staff and training capabilities. The Advanced Process Engineering Laboratory is scheduled to open in December as a site where entrepreneurs can rapidly test, develop and deploy process technologies. New companies are welcomed to help increase private-sector diversity and decrease the percentage of tenants focusing on government work. As the park continues to grow, it strengthens the economy by providing maximum opportunities to create new companies, new jobs and a brighter future for the Tri-Cities.

Those seeking more information on the Science and Technology Park should check out the park Web page at <http://www.scitechpark.org>