



Tri-Cities Research District

2710 University Drive Δ Richland WA 99354

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Greg Koller, (509) 372-4864, greg.koller@pnl.gov

Research District property owners ink pact with Portland firm to prepare development plan

Richland, Washington – Three local owners of about 400-acres of prime, mostly undeveloped land in the heart of the Tri-Cities Research District (www.scitechpark.org) have hired a Portland, Ore., firm known for award-winning corporate campuses to prepare a master plan that will define how the area could be developed.

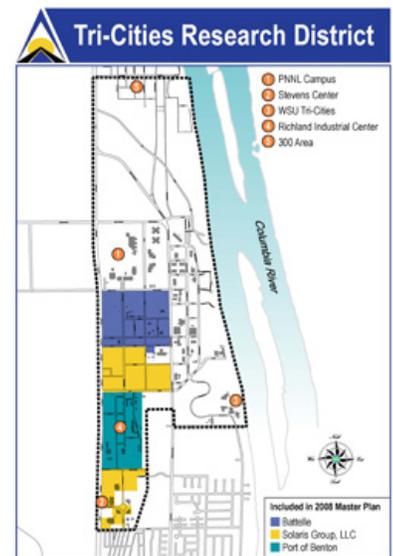
Representatives from Battelle (www.battelle.org), the Port of Benton (www.portofbenton.com) and Solaris Group LLC (www.solarisgroupdevelopment.com), a Richland-based management company and property developer, formalized the agreement with TVA Architects Inc. (www.tvaarchitects.com), a Portland-based architectural, planning, and interior design firm, in a signing ceremony today at Battelle.

The master plan will outline future office buildings, research and clean manufacturing facilities, restaurants and shops, recreational and cultural amenities, landscaping, and will recommend a marketing approach—all designed to attract science and technology companies and jobs to the Tri-Cities. The plan is expected to be finished by August.

“The research district is an asset for the entire Tri-Cities,” said Gary Spanner, TCRD chairman. “The entire Tri-Cities community – not just Richland – is being impacted by the loss of good-paying jobs at Hanford, and the entire community will benefit from the science and technology firms and jobs that will emerge here.”

Bob Price, manager of Solaris Group, noted established and emerging companies have said they need a master plan for the research district before they’ll consider locating there. “The Tri-Cities has many things to offer to prospective technology firms, but they need to see that we have a vision for this area. The master plan will help us do that and, ultimately, we believe it will be a critical early step to creating a strong research cluster near Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Washington State University Tri-Cities.”

The north Richland property covered by the plan is generally bounded by Battelle Blvd. on the north, Stevens Center on the south, Stevens Drive on the west, and George Washington Way on the east.



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The Tri-Cities Research District was created in 1990 as the Tri-Cities Science & Technology Park and renamed last fall. It encompasses nearly 1,600 acres and over one-million square feet of business space just west of the Columbia River and south of the Hanford Site in north Richland. Within its boundaries is Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, which is operated for the Department of Energy by Battelle, WSU Tri-Cities, and two business incubator centers. Currently, more than 7,000 people work for about 80 employers there.

In October, the Tri-Cities Research District was designated an Innovation Partnership Zone by Washington Governor Christine Gregoire, making it one of 11 areas given access to state funding and resources that otherwise might not be available. The district has also been chosen as one of the top ten research parks in the United States by *World Trade Magazine* for two consecutive years.

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TVA Architects Inc. (www.tvaarchitects.com) has received over 50 design awards, including "International Corporate Campus of the Year" for the Nike World Headquarters in Oregon, and national acclaim for Ericsson's North American Headquarters in Dallas, Texas. Current projects include Portland's Park Avenue West, slated to be the third tallest tower in Oregon, the new 12,500-seat University of Oregon Basketball Arena, and leading major renovations for the University of Oregon's Hayward Field in preparation for the 2008 Olympic Track and Field Trials.