

Tri-Cities Research District

A place to do business and thrive

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), the Port of Benton, and other economic development partners have teamed to develop and market the region's first technology-based research area known as the Tri-Cities Research District (TCRD). The TCRD is being developed to create a thriving geographical complex of facilities—including laboratory and office space, as well as supporting services—to foster technology-based economic development in the region.

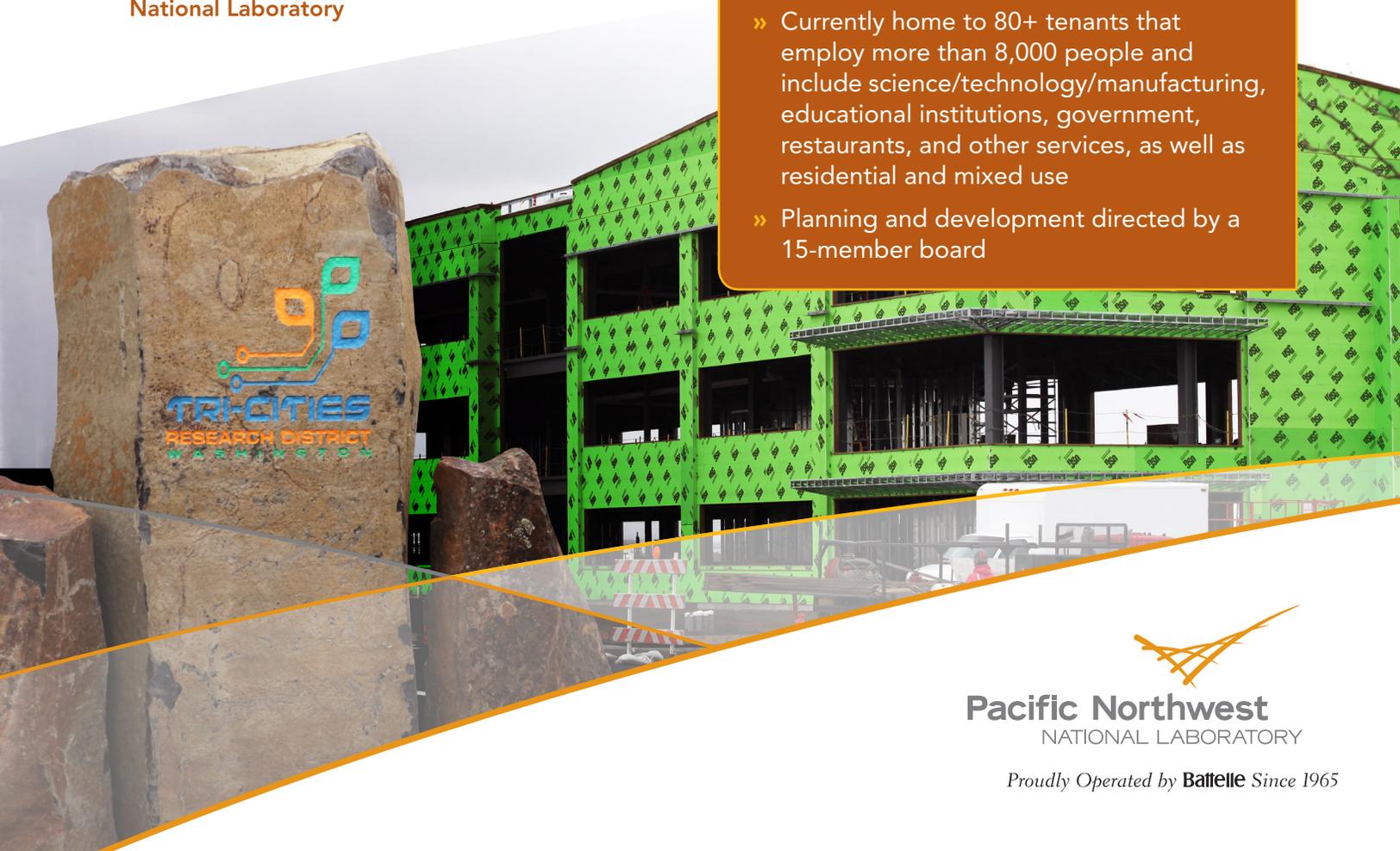
“The Tri-Cities Research District stems from years of work to take advantage of economic development opportunities provided by the combination of a world-class national laboratory, a state university, and numerous technology firms in our midst.”

— Gary Spanner, Pacific Northwest
National Laboratory

As sophisticated and highly technical work for U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) programs supporting Hanford site environmental cleanup inevitably winds down, an excess of highly skilled employees and companies in the TCRD area will need to pursue new markets in the fast-growing knowledge sector. The District is being developed to fulfill this need in addition to recruiting new companies in the interest of further growth and diversification.

Tri-Cities Research District At-A-Glance

- » Established in 1990
- » Located in the city of Richland, in the southeastern part of Washington State
- » Includes 1,700 acres of land surrounding the PNNL campus
- » Currently home to 80+ tenants that employ more than 8,000 people and include science/technology/manufacturing, educational institutions, government, restaurants, and other services, as well as residential and mixed use
- » Planning and development directed by a 15-member board



PNNL's role

PNNL—a DOE laboratory with strong ties to both the public and private sectors—is well-positioned to aid economic growth in the region and demonstrate DOE's commitment to the community, which has supported the Laboratory for nearly five decades.

In addition to chairing the TCRD board, PNNL has been a key leader and proponent for the TCRD since its early roots. The Laboratory's Economic Development Office was central to the District's successful Innovation Partnership Zone designation, a program started by Governor Chris Gregoire in 2007 that provides access to funding and resources otherwise not available.

To help the TCRD continue to grow and thrive, PNNL will have an ongoing role in:

- » leveraging government and regional assets
- » optimizing land use
- » marketing the District to recruit tenants and technical expertise
- » facilitating stakeholder collaboration
- » attracting appropriate funding
- » identifying and capitalizing on opportunities that will benefit the community and the region.



Currently, PNNL— one of 17 national laboratories within the DOE system— conducts more than \$1 billion in research and development annually, with a staff of more than 4,500, a large percentage of whom are PhD and Masters level scientists and engineers.

Value of the Research District

The TCRD is an ideal place to combine work, education, recreation, and professional growth. For two consecutive years, the TCRD was chosen as one of the top 10 research parks in the U.S. by World Trade magazine. It is home to advances in medical technology, energy, advanced materials, life sciences, information technology, environmental cleanup, and restoration.

Since its inception, the TCRD has been designated a Verizon World Class SmartPark. This provides tenants the ability to communicate through a digital infrastructure that uses fiber optics to achieve high-speed, error-free data, voice, and video transmission. The Pacific Northwest Gigapop has increased the TCRD's access to an advanced region-wide network that can send and receive vast amounts of information to enhance research, education, and economic development.

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