



## SPARTA Breaks Ground in Thornton Research Park

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"SPARTA is a homegrown Huntsville company that continues to play a large role in our national defense, and as it continues to grow stronger, so does our community," remarked U.S. Rep. Bud Cramer during an April 11 groundbreaking ceremony. "I am pleased that SPARTA is reaffirming its commitment to our community and consolidating its North Alabama operations here," added Cramer.

The company plans a signature building in Thornton Research Park. Located at 401 Diamond Drive, the proposed 97,000 square-foot facility will be situated on 15-acres. Plans also feature an expansion option for an additional 35,000 square feet. Mayor Loretta Spencer noted, "Huntsville is very fortunate to see the continuing investments made by major companies in the city's research parks."

Dr. Bob Sepucha, chief executive officer for SPARTA, announced, "This facility will consolidate all our Huntsville operations and allow SPARTA additional room to grow during the BRAC relocation." Missile defense work represents about 45 percent of SPARTA's business and company officials anticipate BRAC-related moves by their current workforce living in the northern Virginia area, as well as business growth in the Huntsville market.

"SPARTA celebrated its 25th anniversary last year," noted Dave Hargrove, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County, "and at that time the company was well into planning this phase of growth. Today, you see evidence of the success that SPARTA has enjoyed in Huntsville."

Founded in 1979, SPARTA, an employee-owned company, specializes in systems engineering and advanced technology. Core business areas include strategic defense and offense systems, tactical weapons systems, space systems, and information systems.

SPARTA has grown to include 19 offices and close to 1,400 employees nationwide. An acronym, SPARTA stands for Systems Planning, Analysis, Research and Technology Association. The company's headquarters is now in California, though more than 300 employees are in Huntsville. The company has seen 20 percent growth over the past three years and did \$277 million in business last year.

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