



Westar Breaks Ground in Cummings Research Park *Systems and Engineering Center Aims to Strengthen Service*

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Westar Aerospace & Defense Group (A&DG) has broken ground on a new facility to enhance customer service, create greater synergy between staff and leadership, and advance corporate growth plans. "Westar is committed to this community and our customers," announced Garrett Martz, Westar Aerospace & Defense Group chief operating officer. "The new systems and engineering center is our future home for achievement, teamwork and quality," he added. When complete, the center, located in Cummings Research Park West at 890 Explorer Boulevard (near the corner of Discovery Drive and Explorer Boulevard), will encompass over 85,000 square feet. Notably, the company has already asked the City of Huntsville for an option on the land adjacent to the planned systems and engineering center.

"I am extremely pleased that Westar Aerospace & Defense Group will be locating their new facility in Research Park West. It is exciting to see this section of the park continue to grow and I look forward to the building's grand opening. I am confident that Westar will experience additional growth and success here in Huntsville," said Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer.

Martz noted, "Westar is here today because we help our customers to be successful. They have accomplished their most difficult tasks and missions, and we have helped them in ways we hope and pray are significant to our country and to the lives of those who defend this great nation."

In December 2003, Westar acquired Huntsville-based Elmco Inc. Additionally, Westar bought two other companies with offices in Huntsville; Great Pond Technologies Inc., based in Brunswick, Maine, in 2002, and Cobro Corporation, based in Daleville, Alabama, in 2000.

Westar Aerospace & Defense Group, with annual sales in excess of \$150 million, is a diversified technology and services company headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri. Westar and its subsidiaries have about a thousand employees and operate engineering and technical support centers in Huntsville, Alabama and St. Louis, Missouri, among other locations. Westar, with 38 percent annual growth during the last five years, provides products and services to various government organizations and several high technology commercial market segments. The company specializes in all aspects of technical support to Army Aviation and Missile weapon systems programs. Visit www.westar.com for further information. In 2004, the high growth Westar A&DG was acquired by QinetiQ, Europe's largest science and technology solutions company.

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