



## Westar Celebrates Open House and Announces Further Expansion

May 1, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

During a packed open house ceremony for Westar Aerospace & Defense Group's new 84,000 square-foot facility in Huntsville's Cummings Research Park, the company announced it will begin construction on an additional three-story, 126,000 square-foot facility to house its growing workforce in North Alabama.

"Our Huntsville operations have been expanding every year since we hired our first employee here in 1996. Today we have nearly 500 employees in Alabama," said Rob Topping, Westar president and chief executive officer. "These new facilities reflect the good work of our people in meeting the growing needs of our customers, and give us the increased science and laboratory space we need to deliver solutions to our customers' most important challenges." Topping noted that BRAC-related jobs boosted their decision.

Dave Hargrove, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County, welcomed attendees to the May 1, 2006 event and said "Westar is a company on the move, advancing to meet the needs of their customers and their community. This new facility and new expansion plans are shining examples of their commitment to both."

Among the dignitaries attending the event were U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions, U.S. Congressman Bud Cramer, U.S. Congressman Terry Everett, U.S. Congressman Mike Rogers, Alabama State Representative Sue Schmitz and Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer.

"This investment by Westar continues the City of Huntsville's commitment to excellence in Cummings Research Park," noted Mayor Spencer. "I wish much success for Westar and all its employees at this new state-of-the-art facility."

Westar's campus in Cummings Research Park is situated on a 21-acre lakefront lot on Explorer Boulevard. With its new addition, Westar becomes one of the largest tenants in Cummings Research Park.

Headquartered in St. Louis, Mo., Westar Aerospace & Defense Group, Inc., a systems engineering contractor with more than \$200 million in annual sales and 1100 professionals around the world dedicated to providing high-value engineering, software and logistics solutions to the U.S. Department of Defense and allied governments, is headquartered in St. Louis, Mo.

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**Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County**

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