Tri-Cities Research District

A great place to do business, live, and grow

Pacific Northwest
NATIONAL LABORATORY

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"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*

What it's all about

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), as well as the Port of Benton and other economic development partners, have teamed to develop and market the region's first technology-based, research area: the Tri-Cities Research District (TCRD).

Formerly known as the Tri-Cities Science and Technology Park, the renamed TCRD's planning and development is directed by a 15-member board. Established in 1990, the TCRD is intended to capitalize on the breadth of expertise available in the business and technical organizations located in North Richland.

For years, numerous companies in the TCRD have been involved in sophisticated and highly technical work for U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) programs supporting the Hanford cleanup and special materials production.

As the cleanup work inevitably winds down, there will be an excess of highly skilled employees and companies in the North Richland area. The TCRD will be developed for these companies and employees to pursue new markets in the fast-growing knowledge sector. Additional knowledge-based companies will also be recruited to take advantage of this impending surplus of skilled employees.

The TCRD's goal is to bring together resources from government, education, and the private sector to foster the development, promotion, financing, and operation of technological and scientific applications for the benefit of economic development and diversification of the Tri-Cities area.

For more information about the TCRD, visit: ***http://www.pnl.gov/edo/opportunities/research_district.stm***

What is Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's role?

In addition to chairing the 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 Research District's successful Innovation Partnership Zone designation, a program started by Governor Chris Gregoire in 2007, which provides for access to funding and resources otherwise not available.

Currently, PNNL, which is one of 10 multi-program national laboratories within the DOE system, conducts more than $1 billion in research and development, with a staff of 4,300 including more than 900 PhDs.

The Laboratory is a national asset working to address national challenges in energy, the environment, fundamental science, and national security. With strong ties in government and the private sector, PNNL 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.

PNNL's ongoing role will include strategy development, oversight, and execution throughout the phases of the TCRD's business plan. These include:

- helping the TCRD market its unique strengths to potential tenants by PNNL's presence in the Research District
- leveraging government and regional assets
- identifying target businesses and top researchers for the TCRD
- pinpointing land-use improvements that will make the TCRD more attractive to businesses
- determining what services will make the TCRD more valuable to relocating businesses
- aiding the collaboration of the region's government, stakeholders, and organizations to effectively build and market the TCRD
- attracting appropriate funding required to make the TCRD successful
- organizing and managing the TCRD to capitalize on its future opportunities that benefit the community and the region.

What is the value of a Research District?

The TCRD is a great 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 United States by *World Trade* magazine. Furthermore, the TCRD 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, 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.

Tri-Cities Research District at-a-glance

- Established in 1990
- Located in the city of Richland, in the southeastern part of Washington state
- More than 1,600 acres of land with more than half available for development
- 80+ tenants and property owners
- 7,000+ employees
- Prestigious affiliations and tenants, including Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Washington State University Tri-Cities, Solaris Group LLC, Port of Benton, Columbia Basin College, and DOE.

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May 2009 PNNL-SA-58710

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