

## **FACT SHEET ON ETC**

- **What is the ETC?**

The Energetics Technology Center is a spin-off of the Center for Energetics Concepts Development (CECD) at the University of Maryland in College Park. It will be located in Charles County, Maryland near the base at Indian Head. The facility will engage in R&D and development of products that use energetics material.

Customers of the ETC will include the Department of Defense (DOD), Homeland Security, NASA, defense contractors involved in energetics engineering activities, private industry, and educational institutions.

- **What is Energetics?**

Energetics is the science of explosives, propellants, and pyrotechnics. Energetics engineering involves research and development, testing, and manufacture of energetics products and materials.

- **Since explosive are involved, is there a danger associated with the ETC?**

No. In fact, energetics work includes creating products that are stable and don't explode until they are supposed to. But more importantly, activity at the ETC would be focused on training and product development. Hazardous materials and products are confined to secure facilities such as the NSWC at the base at Indian Head.

- **Who is involved in the ETC?**

This project is a collaboration of many of the same partners involved with CECD, including the University of Maryland, The Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Division (NSWC/IHDIV), The College of Southern Maryland (CSM), and The Office of Naval Research (ONR). Additionally, Charles County Government (CCG) is a partner in the ETC project.

The Center will be operated by a professional staff.

- **How is the ETC different from CECD?**

CECD is involved in energetics research and education and supports the University of Maryland's graduate programs. Work at ETC will focus primarily on development and prototyping of products that use energetics materials, in addition to workforce development.

- **What are the ETC workforce training programs?**

Workforce development will be part of the ETC activities. This will include a Technician Development Program, Community College Program, and outreach to Charles County High Schools and Middle Schools.

Workforce development is essential because we must train new energetics technologists in order to replenish this vital workforce. For example, in the unique discipline of synthesis chemistry for explosives, there are currently an estimated 82 people in the highest levels of the field *in the free world*. Over half are approaching retirement age.

- **Who will own the ETC?**

The ETC will be a private, enterprise center, independent of the CECD and the University. The organization will have a paid staff and a Board of Directors and will operate in leased space.

Ownership of the physical space – the building – will most likely be the result of a public private partnership that is currently in negotiation with Charles County Government. CCG is providing the land on which the Center will be constructed.

- **Where is the site for the ETC?**

The plan is to construct the ETC at the 52-acre business park site in Pomonkey, Maryland adjacent to the general aviation Maryland Airport. This county-owned site is about 5 miles from the base at Indian Head. The park – tentatively to be called the East Potomac Science and Technology Park – will be developed in a public/private partnership, with the ETC as an anchor tenant. Additional office buildings will house research and technology related firms.

- **Why do we need the ETC?**

On-going development of intellectual capabilities and energetics technology are critical to U.S. national security. We must continually regenerate the energetics professional workforce in order to continue to work on developing more sophisticated weapons systems.

This *national* need presents enormous opportunity for the State of Maryland and for Charles County. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommended that Indian Head become the military's "center of excellence for Energetics." Leadership at the NSWC/IHDIV has begun developing a long-term strategy for making this a reality. Creating The Energetics Technology Center near Indian Head complements activities at the base and creates enormous economic development opportunity for the State and the County.

Furthermore, by strengthening tenant activities at Indian Head, the State and the County will help protect the base from closure and realignment in future BRAC rounds.