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GROUNDBREAKING HELD FOR STATE DATA CENTER PROJECT *Construction to be completed in two years*

OLYMPIA, WA –Groundbreaking, or rather, a ceremonial demolition, was held today to kick off construction of the new State Data Center and office building – a project that will replace the state's outdated, aging data center and create over 1,200 construction jobs in Thurston County.

Today's ceremonies included remarks from Sen. Karen Fraser, Rep. Sam Hunt, Olympia Mayor Doug Mah, and Tony Tortorice, Director of the Department of Information Services. Fraser made note that this is the first new building on the Capitol Campus in 20 years. Hunt remarked that it has taken staff and the Legislature, 18 years of efforts to arrive at this juncture. Mah mentioned the welcoming nature that the new roundabout will bring to Olympia and the Capitol Campus. The roundabout, which will be located at 14th and Jefferson Streets, will be constructed as part of the overall project.

As part of the ceremony, officials took turns in excavators (with help from the construction crew), knocking down a building on the site to the delight of hundreds of onlookers.

The \$255 million 394,000-square-foot complex, located at the 1500 block of Jefferson Street SE., is scheduled to be completed in late 2011. Prior to demolition, the Department of General Administration scoured each building on the site, for recyclable materials. This summer, several mature Red and Pin oak trees from the site were uprooted and warehoused for replanting into the project landscape.

For more information about the State Data Center and DIS office building, visit the project's website at <http://dis.wa.gov/wheelerSM.htm>.

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About DIS - The Washington State Department of Information Services (DIS) provides telecommunications, computing, and digital government services to state, local, and tribal governments; higher education institutions, and qualified non-profit organizations.