



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Washington State Department of Information Services Selects Developer to Build Data Center Facilities**

### ***Wright Runstad & Company Tapped For State Complex***

**OLYMPIA, WA – November 19, 2007** - The Washington State Department of Information Services (DIS), a technology provider for state and local government agencies and tribal governments, has selected Seattle-based Wright Runstad & Company to develop and construct a new state-of-the-art data center and office buildings on the eastern side of the Capitol Campus in Olympia, Washington. One of the two office facilities will also house the headquarters of the Washington State Patrol.

The request for proposals for developers was released in early October. DIS plans to break ground in the spring of 2008.

The \$260 million office complex and data center is expected to total 456,000-square feet. Construction will be completed in February 2010.

"We are excited to work with Wright Runstad, a company with a solid reputation in real estate development," said Gary Robinson, Director of the Department of Information Services. "We are confident that this firm will provide a high level of quality and service."

Wright Runstad has built other buildings for the State of Washington, including the Edna Lucille Goodrich Building in Tumwater -- the first building to meet the state's high performance energy standard.

Other notable Pacific Northwest buildings in their portfolio include: Seattle's King Street Center, an eight-story building in Seattle's historic Pioneer Square District; the Seattle Trade & Technology Center, a five-story plus penthouse Class A office building, located within the Seattle Waterfront district; the Amazon.com Building, one of Seattle's most prominent landmarks; and the Washington Mutual Tower, also located in Seattle.

"We are thrilled to have been chosen and we look forward to working with DIS staff on this challenging development," said Cindy Edens, Senior Vice President and Director of Development for Wright Runstad & Company.

The Wheeler Project has a tight development deadline spurred by the impending construction of the state's Heritage Center on the opposite side of the Capitol Campus.

Touted as the most important construction project in Olympia since the Capitol was finished in 1928, the Heritage Center will house the State Library and Archives, as well as a museum and auditorium. The dramatic \$111 million Heritage Center will be built into the hillside overlooking Capitol Lake, on the north end of the campus where the 1950s-era General Administration (GA) Building now stands. Once the GA Building is demolished, the displaced state agency functions and staff -- including the Washington State Patrol -- will be relocated to one of the two office buildings in the DIS complex.

In order to meet the demolition schedule for the GA Building, the DIS office buildings and data center must be completed so that the GA Building residents and DIS can be housed in the new complex by February 2010.

The existing 32-year-old DIS data center houses the mainframe computing services that process millions of business transactions each day for citizens and state agencies in the areas of social service, employment, corrections, licensing, finance, retirement systems, healthcare, and natural resources. The construction of a new 166,000 square foot data center and production facility will improve seismic integrity, security, energy efficiency, and allow for a layout and electrical system that can better accommodate and adapt to the growing technology assets and services of DIS.

The new office building and adjacent data center will house all of the nearly 500 DIS employees. Employees are now spread out among ten separate buildings in Olympia, West Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater. DIS staff conduct technology purchasing, online security services, justice information technology, website services, telephone services, and manage other technology products and services available to government entities throughout Washington. Locating staff and all department divisions onto one site is an added benefit to DIS.

A website has been created for the public to access information about the project. Plans to position a live webcam on site during construction are underway. Access to the website can be found at: <http://dis.wa.gov/wheelerSM.htm> or at: [www.dis.wa.gov](http://www.dis.wa.gov)

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**About the Washington State Department of Information Services (DIS):** DIS delivers information technology leadership, policies, and service choices for a variety of customers groups in the Washington State. These groups include state and local government agencies, education institutions, tribal governments, and qualifying non-profit organizations. For more information, please check the website: [www.dis.wa.gov](http://www.dis.wa.gov)