



## WestGate@ Crane Tech Park to Help Fuel Indiana Defense Industry Growth

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**CRANE, Ind.— While Indiana counts its Gross State Product in the billions of dollars, the U.S. defense industry measures its fiscal impact in the trillions.**

Although Indiana universities and defense businesses have captured a portion of this military economic sector, Indiana is strategically positioned to significantly boost its industry share. In addition to existing military assets at Camp Atterbury, the Terre Haute Air National Guard and other facilities, the state can grow its commercial military involvement, together with the potential of adding thousands of new jobs, with the [WestGate@Crane Technology Park](#).

An economic powerhouse in south-central Indiana and the U.S. Navy's third-largest physical base, the [Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division \(NSWC Crane\)](#) punches more than \$1.7 million a day into the Indiana economy. While these numbers remain impressive, NSWC Crane annually contracts out an additional \$700 million in services beyond the borders of the state. As it comes online with new buildings, research and development facilities, and high-tech secure warehouses later this year, the WestGate Technology Park is ideally situated to bring more of that potential back into Indiana.

"Commercial facilities with a research and development component can provide major advantages to a technical military facility like NSWC Crane," explained Daniel Denning, deputy director of the Indiana Office of Energy and Defense Development. "They enable high-tech commercial operations to work closely with federal engineers and scientists, thus potentially accelerating production and delivery of key products to America's Warfighter."

As the tech park grows, it is expected to become a "critical component in advancing the growth of Indiana within the defense community," said Denning.

Begun as a deliberately isolated ammunition storage base during World War II, the Crane base dramatically increased its strategic value and diversity of services over the following decades. Today, the base is well-established as a vital strategic center for all branches of the U.S. military and Homeland Security.

As the third largest employer in Southern Indiana, NSWC Crane employs approximately 5,000 scientists, engineers and technical professionals from three states and 40 Indiana counties.

"Given its location next to NSWC Crane, the WestGate park is in an ideal location to develop synergies with on-base research and development operations," said Denning.

Certified as the state's only three-county Certified Technology Park (CTP) by the [Indiana Economic Development Corporation](#) (IEDC), the WestGate has begun targeting defense contractors currently providing technical support and research and development services to the base. Currently [EG&G](#), a subsidiary of the \$2 billion URS corporation, is already located in the park.

Growth in the park continues to quickly progress as WestGate Development Co. officials finalize plans to break ground this summer on two new spec buildings that will accommodate several new perspective tenants. Architectural and engineering plans are currently being developed for a 24,000 sq. ft. building, to be located in Green County, and a 16,800 sq. ft. building in the Martin County section of the tech park. Plans are being drawn up to include restaurants and overnight conference facilities to support employees and official visitors to the tech park, which is located in a remote rural area with no existing retail facilities.

According to Dale Ankrom, WestGate Development Co. partner and project architect, a large number of defense contractors with major operations outside of the state are inquiring about moving portions of NSWC Crane-related operations into the technology park.

“We have four very interested parties at this time that we’re currently negotiating contracts with. We’ve also been receiving inquiries and requests for additional information from a number of others and progress is moving ahead rapidly,” said Ankrom.

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