

Consolidation has CSC 'poised to grow'

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Defense contractor CSC is consolidating its local operations at The Offices at Bridge Street, company officials said Tuesday.

At 138,466 square feet, the office lease ranks among the biggest in this market in several years. The company - formerly Computer Sciences Corp. - will occupy the entire six-story building, which is almost completed.

About 300 CSC employees currently spread out over three buildings - two off South Memorial Parkway and one on Corporate Drive near Madison Square Mall - will move into the Bridge Street offices beginning this summer. Another 300 CSC employees in Huntsville work on-site with customers.

CSC's primary clients are the Missile Defense Agency and Army Materiel Command, both of which will be based at Redstone Arsenal as part of the 2005 military base realignment process. The local office of CSC also does work for the Army's Space & Missile Defense Command, the Army Corps of Engineers and NASA.

While CSC has no plans to add jobs immediately, the move represents a 38 percent expansion in office space, and the company is "poised to grow," said Randy Cash, CSC's local chief.

"We're leasing the whole building, but we won't use all the space initially. We're allowing for growth," said Cash, whose title is vice president and general manager of CSC North American Public Sector's Southeast Systems Technology group, which is based here.

Cash, who joined CSC in September after five years at rival SAIC, said the company is "looking to make a statement that we're committed to Huntsville" and raising its local profile.

He called Bridge Street Town Centre a perfect fit, citing its location - in Cummings Research Park at Old Madison Pike and Research Park Boulevard, near Redstone's Gate 9 - and amenities for employees and customers. The office building is just a few steps from a variety of restaurants and stores, a 14-screen cinema and the Westin hotel.

Doug Badia of Bridge Street developer O&S Holdings in Beverly Hills, Calif., also noted the likely boon for Bridge Street retailers and restaurants with 300 built-in customers on weekdays.

With this building now fully leased - O&S started construction on it in 2006 as a speculative (no signed tenants) building that could accommodate many firms - the developer is already planning a second office building for the 100-acre project.

Badia, executive VP of operations, said O&S will begin marketing and preleasing the second building, similar in size to the first, in the next few months.

CSC, based in Falls Church, Va., has been in Huntsville for more than 40 years but probably made its biggest splash here 10 years ago by buying Nichols Research. That company was founded by longtime local businessman and civic leader Roy Nichols.

CSC now boasts 91,000 employees and annual revenue of \$17 billion.

Wesley Crunkleton of Crunkleton & Associates represented CSC in the lease negotiations. Bart Smith and Tyler Fanning of Graham & Co., the exclusive leasing agent for the building, represented O&S.