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Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Applauds Federal Agency NRC Expansion at White Flint Site in North Bethesda

ROCKVILLE, MD—The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) applauds the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s expansion at the agency’s current site in Montgomery County, with today’s groundbreaking celebration to mark the start of construction on a new, 362,000-square-foot building, adjacent to the White Flint Metro Station. The new facility is one part of the North Bethesda Center complex, a mixed-use project that is being developed in phases on a 32-acre site by MCCC member, LCOR.

“Federal agencies are a critical part of our local economy,” said Georgette “Gigi” Godwin, president and CEO of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce. “We welcome and encourage their expansion here as agencies, such as NRC, grow to meet the challenges of our nation and world. Today’s groundbreaking gives our community an opportunity to celebrate such success and we applaud all those who worked to bring this important project to fruition.”

Montgomery County is second in the nation among local jurisdictions, for the amount of federal government procurement dollars that are spent with small businesses, according to federal data. This is due in large part to the strong presence of federal agencies in the county and the capabilities of professional service providers. NRC is one of 19 federal research and regulatory agencies located in Montgomery County.

According to a study by the newly formed Maryland Federal Facilities Advisory Board, the overall economic impact of federal agencies to the State of Maryland is highlighted by:

- 76,000 direct jobs, statewide, with an average wage of \$91,789; along with 80,000 spillover jobs; and
- \$26.8 billion in Federal procurement spending in Maryland (2009).

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, through its GovConNet (government contracting network) programs and events, has attracted more than 2,000 professional service providers and other businesses to government contracting events over the past year, including the recent Congressional Procurement Conference and Expo, and on-site agency visits to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. As an example of the Chamber’s recognition of the growing importance of these federal agencies, NIST will be this year’s recipient of the 2010 Visionary Award and honored at the MCCC Annual Dinner on June 9.

For more information on the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce or its GovConNet programs, visit www.montgomerycountychamber.com or call 301-738-0015.