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Thursday ceremony to begin construction at \$1.2 billion NSA center

BY MIKE GORRELL
The Salt Lake Tribune

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A groundbreaking ceremony Thursday will formally kick off work on the Utah Data Center, a \$1.2 billion project viewed as the salvation for the state's beleaguered construction industry.

Nearly 10,000 people are expected to be employed over the next three years building the 1-million-square-foot facility at Camp Williams on the Salt Lake/Utah county line.

The National Security Agency will use the climate-controlled environment of its computerized core as a repository for information gathered by different branches of the country's intelligence apparatus, hence the facility's nickname, "The Spy Center."

The 2 p.m. event may be one of the public's last chances to take an open look at the project, technically known as the nation's first Intelligence Community Comprehensive National Cyber-security Initiative (CNCI) Data Center.

"We've been asked not to talk about the project," said Rob Moore, president and chief operating officer of Big-D Construction. His company is part of a consortium of contractors that won the coveted construction contract from the National Security Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is overseeing the building.

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At A Glance

Utah data center

The Camp Williams facility is intended to help intelligence agencies protect national security networks, provide technical assistance to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and issue warnings about cyber-security threats.

About the facility

- Covers 200 acres at Camp Williams

- Includes 100,000 square feet of computer space
- Has 900,000 square feet of technical support and administrative space
- Requires 65 megawatts of power plus a backup generator
- Features perimeter security buildings and fencing
- Includes water treatment and storage units, fuel storage capacity and fire suppression systems

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While he could not speak about the facility as a Big-D representative, Moore was able to comment briefly as president of the Utah Association of General Contractors.

“We’ve lost over 40,000 jobs in the construction market since 2008,” he said. “This will have a significant impact replacing some of those jobs and providing work for many, many small businesses.”

Since the project first was announced late in the fall of 2009, small businesses have been jockeying to be included as subcontractors for the big construction companies that won the bid, in this case Big-D and its national partners, Balfour Beatty and DPR.

Work will get under way at an ideal time for Utah trades people, ramping up just as construction of the City Creek Center in downtown Salt Lake City is winding down.

“We’ve been fortunate here in the state,” said Jim Judd of the Utah AFL-CIO labor unions. “The NSA project will pick up the commercial construction business. It will provide long-term employment help for the state until, hopefully, the economy recovers .”

An Army Corps of Engineers news release about the ground breaking said construction now is scheduled to be completed by October 2013. The initial timetable envisioned the facility being operational by June 2012.

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J_Lunchbucket 4 hours ago

"I was lookin' back to see if she was lookin' back to see if I was lookin' back at her" - Kenny Rogers

I hope they can stop those porn sites from double charging my card and sending me a thousand more emails. If so, it's worth the 1.2!

Like Reply



johnnydeep 21 hours ago

This smacks of Federal Pork. Why didn't Utah just say No?

Like Reply



IT_Geek 22 hours ago

I wonder if e-verify was required as part of the bidding process to work on a government contract? If it wasn't, I suspect this will help the employment numbers of illegals, and not so much legal workers and US citizens that are true craftsmen of their trade.

1 person liked this. Like Reply



hideyoshi 21 hours ago in reply to IT_Geek

All federally funded projects require e-verify. Every project that receives even \$1 of federal funding requires it. All of the many projects in process and completed Stimulus (recovery Act) did as well. Just a reminder, if some looks like they're from Mexico and speaks Spanish doesn't make them illegal. There are thousands of true trade craftsmen from Mexico as well as from the USA. My experience in construction management has been that most of the guys from Mexico originally, have a great work ethic and much more loyalty than those who are from here.

1 person liked this. Like Reply



Stop_being_lied_to 9 hours ago in reply to hideyoshi

That's great news hideyoshi. Will you contribute \$1,000 to my favorite charity for every illegal I find working there? I'm sure the Minutemen could use the extra funding.

1 person liked this.

 **Dee Oltman** 22 hours ago

Come on Utah! Where is the outrage over this massive intrusion of the Federal Government?

BTW- I want another installment of Stink and the Teabagger.

1 person liked this.

 **TheBishopRick** 1 day ago

They should just paint a big red target on the state.

1 person liked this.

 **BIP** 1 day ago

Since the project first was announced late in the fall of 2009, small businesses have been jockeying to be included as subcontractors for the big construction companies that won the bid, in this case Big-D and its national partners, Balfour Beatty and DPR.

Now the sub-contractors will be shopped, unethical, I know in Utah and the feds they are allowed to shop the bids.

I am glad it is illegal to shop bids for the State of Calif, it requires honesty and ethical contracting.

I don't trust construction in Utah.

6 people liked this.

 **thirdpartyvoter** 1 day ago

I wonder how many people we could employ by building schools? Guess that is a question we will never know the answer to.

5 people liked this.

 **Stop_being_lied_to** 9 hours ago in reply to thirdpartyvoter

are you kidding? The schools they build today cost twice that much. \$1.2B would barely cover the climate controlled gym with jumbotrons, electric lockers and steam/sauna/whirlpool facilities that every Jr. High School needs now.

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#stimulus by another name: NSA's giant Utah data center to create 10k jobs:
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