



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Grand Opening for NOAA Marine Operations Center Set for August 2011

Open House and Dignitaries to Commemorate Historic Event

COOS BAY, OR – August 2011 – The upcoming landmark dedication of NOAA's recently completed Marine Operations Center-Pacific (MOC-P) will mark a major achievement for Newport and Oregon as leading maritime centers. The new \$38 million home to NOAA's Pacific Fleet brings hundreds of scientists, meteorologists, officers and maritime professionals to the area along with new civilian jobs and an important boost to Newport's economic, academic and cultural heritage.

The two-day event will include high-profile dignitaries, a ribbon cutting, an open house and tours. A host of high-ranking officers, senators, congressmen and the governor are expected to attend. Newport's ideal location, excellent harbor site, transportation systems, community resources, quality of life, and accomplished academic community helped Newport win the highly prized selection as new home to NOAA's Pacific operations.

The high-profile, LEED® Silver project was built as a joint venture between West Coast Contractors and Andersen Construction, with Andersen providing the on-land construction efforts and West Coast Contractors providing the highly complex pile-driving and in- and over- water portions of the project.

"The in-water work portion of the project was a challenging portion of this venture. Multiple operations needed to occur concurrently and methodically to ensure schedule and quality," said Tim Smith, West Coast Contractors construction manager. "Our thorough approach, paired with cutting-edge technology and equipment, both researched, acquired and developed internally, enabled West Coast Contractors to ensure effective coordination, targeting and completion of this highly complex and critically important project."

The state-of-the-art research facility features a 1,300-foot long pier that can accommodate up to six ocean-going ships, two 260-foot long trestles connecting the pier to shore, an 18,000 sq. ft. administrative building, 25,000 sq. ft. of warehouse space, a hazardous materials building, security building, access roads, walkways and parking for 183 vehicles.

The pier will provide berths for four NOAA ships: the McArthur III, Miller Freeman, Rainer and Bell M Shimada; and can support two more visiting vessels. Approximately 175 employees, including more than 110 officers will work at the facility. The high-tech administration building features



advanced weather forecasting equipment and also includes a museum room for the public which details two hundred years of history with models of ships, books, uniforms, compasses and wheels.

The facility was built on a five-acre site along the south bank of Yaquina Bay in the South Beach area of Newport. Officials from West Coast Contractors and Andersen will be attending the dedication, including David Kronsteiner, CEO and president of West Coast Contractors.

"We are very proud of the way the NOAA project turned out and are thrilled to see the positive effects that will come to the City of Newport and the residents living there," Kronsteiner said.

NOAA MOC-P Dedication and Open House 2002 Marine Science Drive, Newport, OR.

- August 20, NOAA MOC-P Dedication, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday
- August 21, NOAA MOC-P Open House, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday

About West Coast Contractors

Based in Coos Bay, WCC is a general contractor with experience in a comprehensive line of marine construction services, such as dredging, pile-driving, demolition, pile excavation and bridge construction. WCC is renown for complex projects on land and at sea that are able to withstand severe weather conditions. For inquiries, contact WCC at (541) 267-7689.

About Andersen Construction

Andersen is a construction manager and general contractor that excels in technically challenging projects. With offices in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, Andersen's portfolio includes experience in high tech, commercial, retail, cultural, educational, medical and government structures including seismic upgrades and remediation. For inquiries, contact Andersen at: (503) 283-6712 (Portland).

About NOAA

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a scientific agency within the United States Department of Commerce that focuses on the conditions of the oceans and atmosphere. NOAA warns of dangerous weather, charts seas and skies, guides the use and protection of ocean and coastal resources, and conducts research to improve understanding and stewardship of the environment.

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