



BALTIMORE COUNTY  
MARYLAND

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**For Release: Immediate**

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## **U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TO OCCUPY NEW BUILDING AT BWTECH@UMBC RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY PARK**

*Towson, Maryland (March 9, 2006)* - Corporate Office Properties Trust (COPT) will build the next building at bwtech@UMBC, the 41-acre research and technology park adjacent to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County campus in Catonsville. UMBC will lease the single-story, 23,500 square-foot building to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Water Science Center. The total construction cost of the new building is projected at more than \$4.2 million.

The move will bring over 60 USGS scientists and support staff to UMBC's campus and strengthen collaborative work with UMBC and the U.S. Forest Service. USGS scientists monitor the ecosystems of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and the health of the region's water supply, rivers and streams.

"UMBC, Baltimore County and the State worked together to create Maryland's first research and technology park," stated Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith. "With USGS moving to bwtech@UMBC, UMBC continues to be a leader in fostering entrepreneurship, partnership and synergies between university researchers, students, and technology companies."

Research collaboration with UMBC's core of water and environmental science experts was the key factor in the USGS decision to move to bwtech@UMBC. The USGS has a longtime research partnership with UMBC's Department of Geography and Environmental Systems, Center for Urban and Environmental Research and Education (CUERE), Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Baltimore Ecosystem Study.

The USGS building will be the third of five planned state-of-the-art buildings containing over 300,000 square feet of office and wet lab space. The park's 62,000 square-foot first building has been leased by the information technology firm RWD Technologies since 2001. The second building is fully leased with tenants including the NASA Goddard Earth Sciences and Technology Center, software maker BD Metrics Inc., healthcare communications and technology firm Physicians Practice, Inc., engineering/design firm Edwards & Kelcey, and UMBC's Alex. Brown Center for Entrepreneurship.

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