



Georgia World Congress Center Authority Breaks Ground on Congress Center Expansion Project

ATLANTA - (July 31, 2018) Today Governor Nathan Deal and the Georgia World Congress Center Authority's (GWCCA) Board of Governors officially broke ground on the Georgia World Congress Center's (GWCC) first major expansion since 2002.

The \$55 million expansion project, a component of the Authority's 2020 Vision strategic plan, features a new 100,000-square-foot exhibit hall affixed between the convention center's Buildings B and C that, once complete, will create over one million square feet of contiguous exhibition space. This new fixed gateway will allow the GWCC to compete for the industry's most in-demand trade shows, conventions, and expos, while offering its largest annual events much-needed space now.

The potential economic impact of the new exhibition space is estimated to be \$632 million.

"Georgia's preeminence on the national and international stage is the result of solid economic growth and increased tourism made possible by fixtures such as GWCC," said Gov. Nathan Deal. "As host to premier conventions, festivals, sporting events and trade shows, GWCC serves as the first impression for industry leaders interested in exploring all that Georgia has to offer. By expanding this welcoming center of opportunity, we are reaffirming our commitment to delivering world-class experiences for job creators and visitors, while laying a strong foundation for a more prosperous Georgia."

"The addition of this new contiguous exhibition facility will be a catalyst for the next level of growth," said William Pate, president and CEO, Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau. "We are one of only five convention centers in the country offering one million square feet of contiguous exhibit space and when combined with our impressive suite of venues, Atlanta is well positioned for the future."

The Georgia General Assembly approved general obligation bond funding for the project. Construction, contracted to Atlanta-based Holder Construction Group, is expected to be completed by end of 2019.

Opened in 1976 as a single building, the GWCC has undergone four previous major expansion phases, with the last being in 2002 with the completion of Building C, which features four exhibit halls, 23 meeting rooms, two auditoriums, and the Georgia Ballroom and Galleria.

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About the Georgia World Congress Center Authority

Located in the heart of downtown Atlanta, the Georgia World Congress Center Authority campus, which includes the Georgia World Congress Center, Centennial Olympic Park, Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame, Junior Achievement Discovery Center and state-of-the-art Mercedes-Benz Stadium, is the No. 1 convention, sports and entertainment destination in the world. Learn more about why at www.gwcca.org.

2020 Vision is the Authority's blueprint for campus growth and development featuring the GWCC expansion project, re-envisioning of Centennial Olympic Park, and plans for a new luxury convention hotel and multi-level parking deck on the former Georgia Dome site. Additional projects associated with 2020 Vision include flooring upgrades throughout GWCC.

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