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IDA Leases Mark Center Headquarters to the City of Alexandria

ALEXANDRIA, VA (June 2020) – The Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) signed a lease with the City of Alexandria, which will move into IDA’s current headquarters located at 4850 Mark Center Drive.

Both parties signed the 15-year lease on May 26, 2020, with the City having the option to purchase. IDA will vacate its current headquarters and relocate to a new facility in Potomac Yard in early 2022. After one year of refurbishment, the City of Alexandria will begin occupancy in February 2023. The lease will enable the City’s Department of Community and Human Services and the Alexandria Health Department to consolidate into a single location more conducive to collaboration and client service delivery.

“This is a key milestone in our progress toward Potomac Yard occupancy and continued advancement of our work for our sponsors,” said IDA President Norton A. Schwartz. “Eight years ago, we committed to move into a new building in Potomac Yard equipped with the latest technology and security requirements to better support our growing organization.”

Construction on IDA’s new, state-of-the-art 370,000-square-foot facility in the heart of Northern Virginia’s blossoming high-tech corridor is expected to be completed by the end of 2021. The new facility will feature modern conference room space in addition to a designated conference center, on-site café, health and fitness center, and improved collaboration space and design for evolving security requirements.

“IDA’s partnership with the City began nearly 40 years ago when we relocated our headquarters facility to the Mark Center,” said IDA Senior Special Projects Manager Dean Graves. “With this lease and our relocation to Potomac Yard, our longstanding partnership will continue many decades into the future.”

IDA’s new location at 730 East Glebe Road in Alexandria’s vibrant Potomac Yard community sits a little more than one block from a future Metro station and is close to the site of Virginia Tech’s new Innovation Campus.

IDA is a nonprofit corporation that operates three Federally Funded Research and Development Centers in the public interest. IDA answers the most challenging U.S. security and science policy questions with objective analysis leveraging extraordinary scientific, technical, and analytic expertise.



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