

July 1, 2009 The outlook for employment opportunities on Virginia's Eastern Shore received a boost with the opening of Wallops Research Park (WRP). The park is on a 200-acre plot of land adjacent to the NASA Wallops Flight Facility. It was created to draw high-tech firms interested in leveraging the opportunities offered by NASA, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS) and federal agencies in the area. They include the U.S. Navy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As a result, officials say, Accomack County could become a regional center for research and technology. Park tenants will have access to Wallops' runways, research facilities and payload processing center. They also could capitalize on the activities at MARS, where Orbital Sciences Corp. recently launched the Tactical Satellite-3 for the U.S. Air Force. The goal is to capitalize on what's already here and provide the kind of long-term environment that will attract and maintain science and high-tech and educational programs and activities, says Amy Bull, project manager for the WRP, a partnership involving Accomack County, NASA and the Marine Science Consortium. That will do two things: it will