

NOAA National Water Center on UA Campus

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NATIONAL WATER CENTER FACTS

MULTI-AGENCY FORECAST AND RESEARCH FACILITY TO 'REVOLUTIONIZE THE ENTERPRISE'

The National Water Center (NWC) is a first-of-its-kind facility that combines hydrological forecasting operations and research under one roof. Amid growing economic and societal demands for more integrated and expansive water resources information, the NWC will serve as a vehicle to integrate and leverage the capabilities of federal water partners to expand and improve river and flood forecasting, enhance water resource management, accelerate the transition of research-to-operations, establish a Common Operating Picture among federal water agencies, and provide a single portal for water resources information. Through the Center, NOAA also envisions a strong collaborative relationship with The University of Alabama and other universities.

Several federal agencies with complementary missions in water science, observation, prediction and management have formed a partnership to unify their commitment to address the nation's water resources information and management needs through the Integrated Water Resources Science and Services (IWRSS) strategy. IWRSS will facilitate addressing water information needs including the creation of high-resolution forecasts of water resources showing where water for drinking, industry and ecosystems will be available. The NWC will be a primary catalyst to achieve the IWRSS strategy.

"The research conducted at the National Water Center at the University of Alabama will be critical to gaining an increased understanding of our vital water resources," said Senator Shelby. "This center will allow us as a nation to better predict and manage various water-related ecological problems while fostering nationwide collaboration on water issues."

"Water resources present our society with some of its biggest challenges," Witt said. "The National Water Center that will be built on the UA campus will assist in meeting those challenges while providing a mutually beneficial research relationship between faculty and students from UA and other institutions and the experts with NOAA and other federal water experts."