

Overwatch Systems Ground-breaking Event  
Roger Williams  
August 15, 2006

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*Please Note: Secretary Williams often deviates from his prepared remarks.*

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome. We are here for an exciting groundbreaking event and I am honored to have the opportunity to address you all this morning. I know that this comes as a result of many dedicated individuals working together to bring new opportunities to Austin and I applaud your hard work.

As the Secretary of State, bringing new opportunities to Texas is something I take very seriously. My partnership with Governor Perry to promote economic development and growth in our state has been one of my top priorities since I've been in office.

As a businessman myself, I recognize that new opportunities for Texans today mean a stronger and brighter Texas tomorrow. So, my friends, the construction of this new facility is a big deal to the city of Austin and a big deal to Texas.

The Overwatch Systems success story is one that inspires us all. Starting as a handful of determined, patriotic employees over a decade ago, it has developed into one of only two small businesses with tier-one contracts with the United States Army.

Some of you may have heard me say that small business is a big business in Texas. This morning we can see how true that statement really is. Overwatch has played a

significant role in our nation's security through its intelligence software and has shown America how small businesses can serve their country in a big way.

The new facility in Austin will provide current employees with new opportunities and shows their commitment to bringing larger contracts and increased revenue to the city of Austin in the future. Overwatch Systems understands why economic development in our state is so important – because it is essential for a strong future for Texas.

The Governor and I recognize this as well and are working not only to keep businesses like Overwatch Systems in Texas but to also bring new businesses into Texas that will follow in their footsteps.

Over the past couple of years, Texas has received a number of awards and accolades as a business-friendly state, which makes our job a whole lot easier. And business-owners and site selectors, both in- and out-of-state are continuing to realize the benefits of bringing their companies and investment dollars to the Lone Star state. Needless to say, I am very excited about all that our state has accomplished.

Still, as Will Rogers said, “Don't look back; we're not going that way.” In this ever-changing world, we do not have time to rest on our laurels. As technological advances emerge from around the globe, we must constantly seek out new ways to bring that innovative energy to our state.

The Emerging Technology Fund provides the resources needed for the development and commercialization of new products in Texas – sustaining and

creating jobs in the technology industry of the future. I know I'm preaching to the choir, but many economists believe that the emerging technology industry will play an important role in creating revenue in our country and this fund helps us ensure that they're generated on Texas soil.

Someone once said, "The man who uses yesterday's methods in today's work won't be in business tomorrow." Overwatch Systems has taken that to heart and I am confident that they will lead the way in seeking out and creating new methods and technologies that will ensure a safer and successful tomorrow.

Congratulations again on a great day for Overwatch Systems and for Austin.